



Mostly sunny, temps in the low-70s

BEVERLY PRESS

INSIDE

- Hit-and-run driver arrested in WeHo pg. 4
- Tesla Diner opens in Hollywood pg. 6

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

July 24, 2025

BHUSD approves rules on 'sensitive topics'

■ 2022 complaint by Board Member Sabag resurfaces

BY TABOR BREWSTER

After several hours of deliberation and revisions, the Beverly Hills Unified School District Board of Education on July 16 unanimously approved a new policy that prohibits teachers from promoting political or ideological causes dur-

ing instructional time and limits what topics can be discussed in the classroom when not connected to the curriculum. Following its approval, parents and teachers at the July 22 school board meeting continued to express disagreement. Additionally, a 2022 incident

See BHUSD page 25



photo by Tabor Brewster

The new board policy received criticism at the July 22 meeting.

Calls for safer streets grow louder in WeHo

■ Death of cyclist reignites debate over bike lanes

BY SAM MULICK

Approximately 90 people gathered on July 18 at the site where 27-year-old bicyclist Blake Ackerman died in a hit-and-run to commemorate his life and call for increased bicycle safety in West Hollywood. The death of Ackerman, who was struck and killed by a driver on July 10 while riding his bicycle on Fountain Avenue near Gardner Street, has reignited debates within the city for increased bike lanes on Fountain Avenue.

West Hollywood Mayor Chelsea Byers and Councilman Danny Hang joined community members at the vigil before the group marched to City Hall. Councilwoman Lauren Meister also attended the vigil but did not participate in the march. Community members held signs that read "Bike lanes save lives," "Blake lives" and "How many parking spots is a life worth to you?" Outside City Hall, Byers



photo by Peter Bonilla

Community and family members of Blake Ackerman gathered outside West Hollywood City Hall on July 18 to call for increased bicycle safety.

and Hang spoke in support of bike lanes and increased safety measures along Fountain Avenue.

"As a councilmember, I'm going to continue pushing for what I campaigned on - having safer streets. That's going to be me calling for protected bike lanes. That's also going to be me pushing for traffic calming measures," Hang said in a speech at the rally. "That's also going to be me push-

ing for creating a safer space so that we can all walk, bike and drive so that nobody ends up like Blake."

The West Hollywood Sheriff's Station arrested 73-year-old Douglas Morton Adams on July 15 for the fatal hit-and-run. Although a representative from the sheriff's department did not disclose further details of the

See WeHo page 26

Union sends BHPD chief cease and desist letter

■ Chief Mark Stainbrook accused of retaliation against officers

BY TABOR BREWSTER

The board of the Beverly Hills Police Officers Association issued a cease and desist letter to Beverly Hills Police Chief Mark Stainbrook. The letter, dated July 18 and obtained by the Beverly

Press, alleges that Stainbrook engaged in retaliatory, defamatory and unlawful conduct against BHPD President Christian Bond.

The letter accused Stainbrook of "circulating false rumors and defamatory statements" about Bond following the police union's vote of no confidence in Stainbrook. The vote of no confidence, passed on June 11 by 80% of BHPD members, was issued after police union members expressed concerns about

Stainbrook's leadership.

The cease and desist letter alleged that Stainbrook spread false rumors that Bond "orchestrated" the vote, "despite it being a transparent and democratic action mandated by membership."

Additionally, the letter stated that Stainbrook communicated directly with Beverly Hills Unified School District Superintendent Dr. Alex Cherniss "to disseminate false and damaging information" and interfere with a potential employment opportunity for Bond at the school district. The letter states that Bond's wife is an employee of the BHUSD, and Cherniss is her supervisor.

Cherniss did not respond to a request for comment by press time.

The letter also alleged that Stainbrook's conduct has created a hostile work environment and "has had a chilling effect on the willingness of POA members to engage in protected labor activity."

"Should this behavior persist, we are prepared to pursue all available legal remedies, including injunctive relief, civil damages and the initiation of administrative complaints with the California Public Employment Relations Board and other relevant

See BHPD page 26



photo by Edwin Folven

BHPD Chief Mark Stainbrook has been accused of taking retaliatory conduct against the president of the police union.



photo by Edwin Folven

The upper Larchmont Village area between Beverly Boulevard and Melrose Avenue is composed mostly of one- and two-story buildings.

Larchmont 2030 plan calls for responsible development

■ Support grows for grassroots community planning initiative

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

A neighborhood planning initiative that could serve as a model for future development in

the upper Larchmont Village area between Beverly Boulevard and Melrose Avenue has been gaining traction in the community.

Known as Larchmont 2030, the initiative was unanimously supported by the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council Land Use Committee on July 22

See Larchmont 2030 page 26



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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. Singer-songwriter Syndee Winters sings Lena Horne on Friday, July 25. Winters sang the role of Nala in Disney's "The Lion King" on Broadway as well as roles in "Motown: The Musical," "Pippin" and "Hamilton." Last year, Winters was first runner-up in the prestigious Sarah Vaughan Vocal Jazz Competition. Her latest release "Lessons from a Lady" is a tribute to Horne, embodying the nostalgic essence of the legendary artist while capturing the energy of Winters' contemporary jazz vocal style. Admission is free. 5905 Wilshire Blvd. lacma.org.



'The Opposite of Love'

Neil Gooding Productions presents the West Coast Premiere "The Opposite of Love" from Friday, July 25, through Sunday, Aug. 31, at the Hudson Backstage Theatre. The play is an intimate story about a trust fund baby and a down on his luck hustler who form an unlikely bond. Playwright Ashley Griffin makes her long awaited Los Angeles theatrical return, co-starring with actor Evan Strand. Showtimes are at 7 p.m., Thursday through Saturday; 4 p.m., Sunday. A preview performance will be held on July 24 at 7:30 p.m. General admission is \$45. 6539

Santa Monica Blvd. onstage411.com/newsite/show/play_info.asp?show_id=7383&skin_show_id=32.7383.

Diana Ross at Hollywood Bowl

Legendary vocalist Diana Ross returns to the Hollywood Bowl to perform her timeless classics on Friday, July 25, and Saturday, July 26, at 8 p.m. Don't miss a chance to hear "I'm Coming Out," "Ain't No Mountain High Enough" and "Stop! In The Name of Love." Tickets start at \$24. 2301 N. Highland Ave. hollywood-bowl.com.

Films of Studio Ghibli

Film lovers are invited to "The Natural World of Studio Ghibli" from Friday, July 25, through Sunday, July 27, at The Ford. The film series features classic and recent films by the legendary animation studio that explore the human relationship with nature and the spiritual aspect of the natural world. Set against the wooded hillside of The Ford, the films feature Miyazaki's fantastical worlds, memorable characters and iconic scores by Joe Hisaishi. Experience unforgettable Studio Ghibli films shown in Japanese with English subtitles. Showtimes are at 8 p.m. Tickets start at \$35. 2580 Cahuenga Blvd. East. theford.com.

'The Fantasticks'

Enjoy moonlight, magic and timeless romance in "The Fantasticks" running Friday, July 25, through Sunday, Aug. 24, at the Ruskin Group Theatre. The enchanting musical with an unforgettable score tells a tale of young love, growing pains and the bittersweet beauty of life. Showtimes are at 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday; 2 p.m., Sunday. Tickets are \$45. 3000 Airport Ave., Santa Monica. (310)397-3244, ruskingrouptheatre.com.

Rolling Stones photo exhibition

Musichead Gallery presents "Stones in Exile: The Making and Tour of 'Exile on Main St.,'" running Friday, July 25, through Saturday, Aug. 30. The exhibition examines the creativity, chaos and peak era of the Rolling Stones in 1971-72. It features photographs of The Rolling Stones during the recording sessions of "Exile on Main St.," from Villa Nellcôte and Sunset Sound to the band's legendary 1972 North American tour. "Stones in Exile" explores how the Rolling Stones amidst isolation and pressure produced a groundbreaking record that redefined rock. The exhibition features photographs by Alec Byrne, Bob Gruen, Dominique Tarlé, Ethan Russell, James Fortune, Jim Marshall, Lynn Goldsmith, Neil Zlozower and Norman Seeff. An opening reception will be held on July 26 from 6-8 p.m. 7420 W. Sunset Blvd. musichead.com.

Youth photo exhibit

Mount of Angels presents "Through Their Eyes: L.A. Youth Photography Exhibit and Contest," a two-day exhibition showcasing original works by 65 youth photographers ages 8-18 on Saturday, July 26, and Sunday, July 27, at Art Printer in Culver City. The show is an immersive celebration of young voices, visual storytelling and creative expression. Each image will be professionally printed and framed. The public is invited to vote for favorite works, with winners announced at the end of the event.

Hours are 3-8 p.m. on July 26, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., July 27. 12512 W. Washington Blvd. mountofangels.com.

'The Food Chain'

Theatre West presents a staged reading of "The Food Chain" by playwright Nicky Silver on Sunday, July 27, at 3 p.m. Directed by Michael Van Duzer and produced for Theatre West by Connie Mellors, the play is the second in Plays on Words, a series featuring new plays, timeless classics and forgotten gems. "The Food Chain" is a sex comedy with adult content featuring Amanda and Ford, a just-married couple, and Serge and Otto, former gay lovers. The unlikely quartet has more in common than they realize. Uniting them is Bea, a telephone crisis counselor with surprising connections to each of them. Admission is free; donations accepted. 3333 Cahuenga Blvd. West. eventbrite.com/e/the-food-chain-tickets-1448988968009.

Kathleen Kaufman book signing

Author Kathleen Kaufman will discuss and sign her book "The Entirely True Story of the Fantastical Mesmerist Nora Grey" on Wednesday, July 30, at 6:30 p.m. at Diesel, A Bookstore. Feminist gothic horror author Kaufman presents an exquisitely evocative tale of feminine rage set at the height of the Spiritualist Movement at the dawn of the 20th century. Joining her in conversation will be Jo Kaplan. Free seating is limited. Book purchase required to reserve a seat. 225 26th St., Ste. 33, Santa Monica. (310)576-9960, diesel-bookstore.com.

Kevin Nealon

Catalina Jazz Club's monthly comedy night welcomes former "Saturday Night Live" star Kevin Nealon on Wednesday, July 30, at 8:30 p.m. Joining the lineup are Adam Ray, Andrew Santino, Gabby Lamb, Doug Benson, Fizza Dosani, Danny Vermont and Mark Serritella. Tickets start at \$25. 6725 W. Sunset Blvd. catalinajazzclub.com.



Godzilla book

The Japan Foundation, Los Angeles welcomes Steve Ryfle and Ed Godziszewski, authors of "Godzilla: The First 70 Years: The Official Illustrated History of the Japanese Productions" for a discussion on Wednesday, July 30, at 8:30 p.m. Ryfle and Godziszewski will share information on the creativity behind the scenes at Toho Studios that has shaped the "King of the Monsters" evolution. Reservations are required. 5700 Wilshire Blvd, Ste. 100. jflalc.org.

LBGTQ+ film at The Getty

Join The Getty for a screening of "Tongues Untied" (1989) on Saturday, Aug. 9, at 6:30 p.m. The event, originally scheduled for July 27, is being held in conjunction with the exhibitions "\$3 Bill: Evidence of Queer Lives" and "Queer Lens: A History of Photography." Released on PBS, the film is celebrated for its portrayal of the fierce challenges and powerful vibrancy of the Black gay male experience in America. Tickets are free but required for entrance. 1200 Getty Center Drive. getty.edu/calendar/screening-tongues-untied.

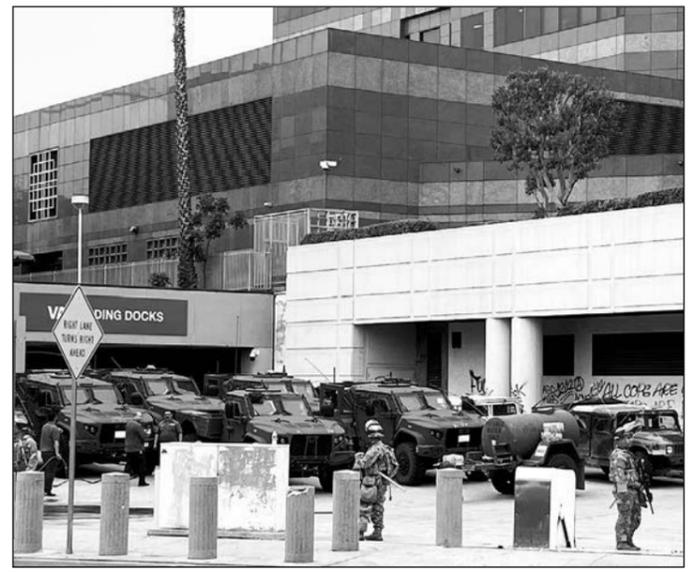


photo by Edwin Folven

Troops were stationed outside federal buildings in Downtown Los Angeles and Westwood.

U.S. Marines withdraw from L.A.

The United States Department of Defense announced on July 21 that 700 U.S. Marines deployed to Los Angeles in June are being reassigned and withdrawn from the city.

The announcement came after the Pentagon on July 15 released 2,000 California National Guard troops from duty in Los Angeles. The Marines and National Guard troops had been deployed outside federal buildings in Downtown Los Angeles and Westwood. Approximately 2,000 additional National Guard soldiers are still deployed under federal orders in Los Angeles.

State and local leaders denounced the military deployment from the onset, calling it unnecessary and stating that it incited civil unrest in the city. On the same morning the announcement was made about the Marines being withdrawn, Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass held a press conference where she highlighted the impact of the deployment on soldiers.

"This is another win for Los Angeles but this is also a win for those serving this country in uniform," Bass said. "Just this morning I stood with veterans, families of active-duty officers and business leaders to show the impact of this unnecessary, unprecedented and unconstitutional assault on our city. We took the administration to court and won, now we continue that momentum with [this] news. Los

Angeles stands with our troops, which is why we are glad they are leaving."

Bass was joined at the July 21 press conference at Los Angeles Mission College by California State Sen. Caroline Menjivar (D-Los Angeles), a U.S. Marine Corps veteran.

"I stood in solidarity with my Marine brothers and sisters, demanding that we release our servicemembers from this charade of a deployment," Menjivar said "We need to return the trust and dependability that our armed forces have earned from our community. We will not get used to this, this will not be our norm and the Pentagon announcing withdrawing the Marines is the only way to honor their service."

"The withdrawal of the 700 active-duty Marines from Los Angeles County is long overdue. There is no place for a militarized presence in our communities, especially when residents are peacefully demonstrating and exercising their constitutional rights. These are armed service members trained for the battlefield, not for deployment among civilians," Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis, 1st District, said. "I now call for the remaining California National Guard members to be defederalized. There are natural disasters across the state and nation, where their skills and service are urgently needed. That is where they belong."

L.A. launches AI pilot program for fire zone rebuilding permits

The city of Los Angeles started beta testing for Archistar's eCheck AI Pilot on July 16. The tool, provided to the city and county through a partnership with state and philanthropic leaders, will be used to help homeowners review building plans for compliance with local building and zoning rules prior to submitting them to the city and formally starting the application process.

During the beta testing phase, homeowners, architects and builders who are working on rebuilding single-family homes in Pacific Palisades can become early adopters by voluntarily submitting plans to help train the AI tool and better support its effectiveness once formally launched.

"The city is committed to doing

everything possible to get families back home," Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass said. "The launch of beta testing is an important step in the implementation of this AI tool to further expedite the rebuilding timeline."

The AI tool is currently being designed by Archistar to incorporate the city's local building and zoning codes. Early adopters will help train the tool to identify any non-compliant elements before they are submitted to the L.A. Department of Building and Safety. Participating in the beta testing is not required to submit an application using the city's existing plan check application process.

For information, visit start.archistar.ai/us/lacity.

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BHUSD considers regulating social media

■ Board aims to expand oversight of district accounts

BY TABOR BREWSTER

The Beverly Hills Unified School District on July 22 discussed a policy that would further regulate content on all district-affiliated social media accounts. The policy, which has yet to be approved, would expand district oversight throughout “social media platforms developed in connection with BHUSD instructional programs, student organizations, events or resources, including class projects, co-curricular activities or extracurricular clubs.”

The proposed policy includes a

list of “prohibited content” for all official and affiliated social media pages. The list includes “no political endorsements or partisan messaging; no promotion of commercial products/services without district approval; no sharing of confidential student info, even if anonymized; no graphic, violent or sensitive material; and no personal opinions or commentary.”

The policy also streamlines content including branding guidelines – ensuring each post uses BHUSD-branded fonts, colors, logos and school mottos.

“All social media activity is subject to review by the BHUSD Communications Department.

Any concerns related to inappropriate or unapproved content, access disputes or brand misalign-

ment should be directed to the site administrator or superintendent’s designee.

Failure to comply with this policy may result in account suspension, retraining or administrative action consistent with BHUSD policy and due process,” the policy states.

The policy received support from the board members who were present. Board Member Dr. Amanda Stern was absent due to an emergency.

Board members made specific changes to the policy including expanding prohibited content to include the misuse of artificial intelligence.

The policy will return to the board at a future meeting.

The discussion follows the approval of a separate policy that



photo by Edwin Folven

The BHUSD is considering expanding regulations on district-affiliated social media accounts.

limits what teachers can discuss in classrooms – prohibiting political or ideological opinions and sensitive topics not related to the curriculum. The policy also marks the board’s latest effort to increase oversight on messaging and media within the district. As of June, KBEV – the district’s longstanding student-led broadcast service – no longer provides live stream footage of the board meetings. KBEV students who once operated cameras and equipment now have no part in broadcasting board meetings, according to several parents and students. The meetings are now livestreamed by the district’s official BHUSD YouTube channel.

The new board policy would also apply to KBEV.

In June, longtime KBEV director and journalism professor Romeo Carey retired from the school district. In December 2024, Carey

became the center of a months-long controversy when he was placed on paid administrative leave by the school district. Student journalists, parents and alumni alleged that the suspension was an act of censorship and retaliation by the school district after Carey allowed students to report on the alleged assault of a student by the district’s executive director of school safety. For months, outraged members of the BHUSD community attended school board meetings to protest Carey’s absence. Peter Eliasberg, chief counsel for the ACLU of Southern California, said that the organization had “very serious concerns” over the situation surrounding Carey’s leave and the alleged censorship of KBEV.

Carey was reinstated on March 5. The school district never disclosed the reason for Carey’s suspension.

Supervisors plan to turn county into life sciences hub

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors unanimously passed a motion on July 15 to fast-track the implementation of the Department of Economic Opportunity’s Life Sciences Industry Strategy and Action Plan. The plan’s goal is to establish the region as a global leader in bio-innovation and create 10,000 high-quality inclusive jobs by 2030.

The Life Sciences Industry Strategy outlines a bold, comprehensive approach to unlock L.A. County’s core assets – a world-

class talent pipeline and top research institutions – while directly confronting constraints that have caused the region to lag behind national job growth. Factors include a critical lack of affordable graduation space for startups, a complex business and regulatory environment and a lack of funding for early-stage companies. The strategy is built on four pillars to address the challenges and leverage the region’s strengths. The county aims to alleviate physical space constraints; encourage firms to start, grow and

hire; strengthen cluster infrastructure and branding; and boost workforce inclusivity.

The strategy is the result of extensive stakeholder engagement and guidance from the Life Sciences Advisory Board convened by the DEO. It builds on a 2022 motion authored by Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell, 2nd District, which prioritized equitable growth in the sector, as well as more than a decade of prior county investment and support. For information, visit opportunity.lacounty.gov/lifesciences.

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photo by Sam Mulick

A driver collided with a motorcyclist on July 18 outside of Jones Hollywood, which temporarily closed in 2023 after a car crashed into the restaurant's entrance.

Man arrested in second WeHo hit-and-run within eight days

■ Collision occurred at Santa Monica and Formosa

BY SAM MULICK

A 33-year-old driver was arrested on July 18 for a hit-and-run collision that injured a motorcycle rider at the intersection of Santa Monica Boulevard and Formosa Avenue in West Hollywood.

William Yates was driving a white Toyota Corolla around 9:05 p.m. on July 18 when he struck a man riding a Kymco model motorcycle and fled the scene, authorities said. Deputies from the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station arrested Yates shortly after the collision with help from a community member who followed him, but Sgt. Matthew Davis did not disclose further details on the arrest.

The victim was hospitalized after the collision. His identity and current condition were not disclosed. Yates, who was also arrested for suspicion of driving under the influence, was released the same night pending court proceedings.

The collision occurred blocks

from West Hollywood City Hall, where a vigil and a rally was held earlier the same night for Blake Ackerman, a bicyclist who was killed in a hit-and-run on Fountain Avenue on July 10. Ackerman's death has sparked community debate over bicycle safety in West Hollywood and proposed bike lane renovations on Fountain Avenue.

The motorcycle struck by Yates came to rest outside Jones Hollywood, which previously closed for three months in 2023 when two cars collided at the same intersection and crashed into the restaurant's entrance. General Manager Keith McCarthy said there is a pattern of speeding at the intersection and it has deterred customers.

"[In] both incidents, I believe authorities would say that excessive speeding is a factor," he said.

Jones Hollywood is still recovering from the 2023 crash as the damage caused 20% of the restaurant's seating to remain closed, McCarthy added.

Yates' charges could rise to the level of a felony based on the victim's injuries, Davis added. He is scheduled to appear in court on Oct. 14.

Man who drove into crowd faces 74 felonies

■ Police still searching for gunman who shot driver after crash

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

A 29-year-old man who intentionally drove his car into a crowd of people outside a nightclub on Vermont Avenue in East Hollywood on July 19 is facing 74 felony charges, including 37 counts of attempted murder and 37 counts of assault with a deadly weapon.

Los Angeles County District Attorney Nathan Hochman announced the charges on July 22 and said they correspond to each of the 37 victims injured by defendant Fernando Ramirez, of San Clemente. Hochman said Ramirez, who also has a pending domestic violence case in Orange County, faces life in prison if convicted.

"The defendant's brazen and destructive actions, as alleged in the criminal complaint, have caused unimaginable harm to dozens of innocent people," Hochman said. "This is a heinous act that left dozens injured, and while the allegations will be tested in court, the impact on the victims is undeniable. Our thoughts are with them and their loved ones as they begin the long road to recovery. We are committed to pursuing justice with care and compassion for those impacted."

Ramirez drove his car onto the sidewalk in front of The Vermont Hollywood at 1020 N. Vermont Ave. shortly before 2 a.m. on July 19, hitting a crowd of people standing in front of the nightclub, a taco stand and valet kiosk. A total of 37 people were injured, including three



photo courtesy of the LAPD

Police released security camera footage of the gunman who shot the driver shortly after the crash.



photo by Edwin Folven

Thirty-seven people were injured when a car drove onto the sidewalk in front of The Vermont Hollywood on July 19.

people who were hospitalized in critical condition. Hochman said eight people suffered "great bodily injury" including serious lacerations and broken bones. The rest were in fair condition. Approximately 125 firefighters were dispatched to the scene along with dozens of officers from the Los Angeles Police Department.

"But for the good grace of God, this could have been a mass casualty incident," Hochman said. "Mr. Ramirez – as alleged and we will prove in a court of law – when he drove that car onto that sidewalk, he aimed it at a whole sea of pedestrians that were in front of him on the sidewalk at 2 a.m. The evidence will come out in a court of law as to what Mr. Ramirez was thinking, his motivation for doing this."

Police have not disclosed Ramirez's motive for driving into the crowd. People outside the club pulled Ramirez from his vehicle after the crash and punched and kicked him. A male suspect walked up and shot Ramirez in the back, police said. The aftermath of the incident was captured on security cameras and cell phone videos.

The Los Angeles Fire Department responded and found numerous people injured outside The Vermont Hollywood. Firefighters and paramedics conducted triage and transported the injured victims to multiple hospitals. Ramirez was among the people who were hospitalized.

"This was an unprovoked act of violence that injured 37 people, some critically, and turned a popular nightlife district into a scene of trauma and fear," LAPD Chief Jim

McDonnell said. "It is truly a miracle that nobody was killed that night. The suspect ... has an extensive history of violence and remains in custody facing serious charges."

The LAPD is still searching for the gunman who shot Ramirez. He is described as Hispanic, 5 feet 6 inches to 5 feet 7 inches tall and 150-170 pounds. He was wearing a blue Dodgers jacket, a light blue jersey with the number "5" and blue jeans. The man has a goatee and gauges in both ears. Security camera images of the gunman was released and anyone with information is urged to call detectives at (213)484-3451.

"We understand the emotions involved, but when the threat had ended and the suspect was no longer actively harming others, the use of deadly force was both unlawful and dangerous to everybody present," McDonnell said. "Our detectives are working diligently to identify and apprehend the shooter who still remains at large. We urge the public to view the suspect's photo on lapdonline.org and please contact us with any information you may have. The individual we're searching for should be considered armed and dangerous."

Representatives of the nightclub could not be reached for comment. A message from The Vermont Hollywood was posted on the nightclub's door.

"We are deeply saddened by the tragic incident that occurred early Saturday morning outside our venue," the message read. "Our thoughts and heartfelt prayers are with the victims and their families during this difficult time."

Suspects in Hancock Park murder face arraignment

Two suspects charged with the murder of an 84-year-old Hancock Park resident in June are scheduled to be arraigned in Los Angeles County Superior Court on July 30.

Rolando Guardado, 41, and Madeline Fresia Rivas, 45, have been held without bail since they were arrested on June 12 at a residence in Palmdale. They are accused of murdering longtime Hancock Park resident Gary

Nelson in his home on Rossmore Avenue during a burglary on June 11.

Police tracked Guardado and Rivas to the residence in Palmdale where they were arrested by a Los Angeles Police Department SWAT team. Authorities said they recovered a knife believed to be the murder weapon at the residence. A vehicle the couple used was also seized as evidence, police said.

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office charged Guardado with murder, residential robbery, burglary, grand theft from an elder and elder abuse. Rivas is charged with burglary, elder abuse and being an accessory to a crime.

Both defendants are scheduled to appear at an arraignment hearing on July 30 in Dept. 30 at the Foltz Criminal Justice Center in Downtown Los Angeles.

Hit-and-run driver evades BHPD in Hollywood

A driver wanted for a hit-and-run led Beverly Hills Police Department officers on a pursuit on July 16 that ended at an apartment building in Hollywood, where the man fled on foot and evaded officers. The driver is being sought by police and the incident remains under investigation.

BHPD Lt. Kevin Orth said the hit-and-run occurred in Los Angeles but didn't name the specific location. A description of the vehicle – a black Jaguar – was broadcast to law enforcement agencies throughout the area and BHPD officers saw the car shortly before

10 p.m. near Santa Monica Boulevard and Cañon Drive. When officers attempted to pull over the Jaguar, the driver sped away.

Orth said BHPD officers pursued the vehicle to the 1200 block of North Orange Drive in Hollywood, where the suspect got out and ran into an apartment complex. BHPD and Los Angeles Police Department officers searched for the suspect but were unable to locate the man.

Orth said BHPD detectives are continuing to search for the driver, but had no further information.

Anyone with information about

the incident is urged to call the BHPD at (310) 550-4951.

Correction:

An article titled "Man arrested in WeHo hit-and-run" published on July 17 incorrectly stated that West Hollywood Councilwoman Lauren Meister attended a rally in opposition to bike lanes on Fountain Avenue in October 2024. She did not attend the rally.

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Friedman seeks details on Musk AI agreement

■ Grok chatbot made antisemitic remarks

BY SAM MULICK

In the wake of Elon Musk's Grok chatbot broadcasting antisemitic messages, Rep. Laura Friedman (D-Glendale) demanded answers about the Pentagon's nearly \$200 million contract with the xAI firm to develop artificial intelligence tools, including "Grok for Government," for the Department of Defense.

On July 8, the Grok AI chatbot posted antisemitic messages on the platform X, referred to itself as "MechaHitler" and used antisemitic tropes. Days before, Musk said that Grok had been updated and was "improved significantly."

On July 14, the Department of Defense entered into a contract with Musk's xAI, which developed the chatbot. Friedman led a group of Jewish congressional representatives in demanding answers from the Department of Defense and Musk about their abilities to modify the AI tool and safeguards to block unauthorized changes to "Grok for Government." They also called for an independent audit of Grok's architecture and moderation systems in the wake of the July 8 antisemitic messages.

"Since Elon Musk took over what was Twitter, we have seen a huge rise in extremist right wing material on that platform, including Holocaust denialism and flat out antisemitism. It's really become mainstream," Friedman said. "This is hugely concerning."

Friedman also called for increased safeguards on the use of artificial intelligence in military weapons. In addition to xAI, the Department of Defense entered into contracts with other artificial intelligence developers including Google and OpenAI.

"We don't know if there are any guardrails around this technology," she said. "We need oversight, we need some kind of on and off switches that are easy to understand and we need to know exactly what they're doing at all times. We have seen zero guardrails."

Neither the Department of Defense nor Musk have responded to the representatives' demands, Friedman said.

In the wake of Grok's comments, X CEO Linda Yaccarino resigned and the Grok X account said that it was "working to remove the inappropriate post" and "has taken action to ban hate speech."

Musk has yet to make a public statement in response to the antisemitic comments.

Friedman added that private companies that enter into contracts with the federal government have a responsibility to be transparent. She will continue demanding answers and investigating the Pentagon's use of the artificial intelligence tool, she said.

"I would hope that any member of Congress who cares about national security, whether you're a Republican or a Democrat, would be extremely concerned about the use of AI and other new technologies regarding our national defense," Friedman said.



photo courtesy of the office of Laura Friedman

Rep. Laura Friedman (D-Glendale) led Jewish lawmakers in demanding answers about the Pentagon's contract with Elon Musk's xAI.



photo courtesy of Secondary Image/Stephen Gee for USC

"Shade LA" includes students from USC and UCLA collaborating to expand shade infrastructure in Los Angeles.

USC teams with 'ShadeLA' to cool city ahead of Olympics

USC announced "ShadeLA," a bold new collaborative effort to cool Los Angeles by expanding tree canopy and shade infrastructure in key public and community spaces.

With major sporting events like the 2026 FIFA World Cup, 2027 Super Bowl and the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games on the horizon – and as climate change drives more frequent and intense heat waves – ShadeLA aims to keep Angelenos and visitors safe while leaving a lasting legacy of resilience.

ShadeLA is led by USC Dornsife Public Exchange in collaboration with UCLA Luskin Center for Innovation, and with participation by the city of Los Angeles, county of Los Angeles Chief Sustainability Office, L.A. Metro and the Los Angeles Organizing Committee for the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

"For years, USC Dornsife Public Exchange has been leading the way on sustainable urban forestry. Now, we're proud to be spearheading ShadeLA, an

important initiative that leverages our cutting-edge research to improve quality of life for all of us in Los Angeles," USC Interim President Beong-Soo Kim said.

"Extreme heat continues to impact the lives of the people of Los Angeles, and this partnership empowers our communities to come together, build resilience and cool our neighborhoods. As we prepare to welcome the world, this initiative will leave a lasting legacy for Angelenos for years to come," Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass said.

L.A. will soon welcome the world for major global sporting events. In 2026, SoFi Stadium will host eight FIFA World Cup matches, including the U.S. men's national team opener. In 2028, Los Angeles will host the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

For information, visit canva.com/design/DAGsCpqcUw/eunaEVasvYokYhCaiMgI/Q/view?utm_content=DAGsCpqcUw&utm_campaign=design-share&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=uniquelinks&utm_id=hb2baec37ad.

Margot McKinney.

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Would you like fries with that charge?

■ Tesla Diner, outdoor movie theater open

BY SAM MULICK

Tesla owners, cybertruck drivers and curious residents flocked to the opening of the Tesla Diner on July 21 in Hollywood. The 24-hour diner, complete with 80 Tesla charging stations, two large outdoor movie screens and a dining balcony drew lines of eager Tesla owners at 7001 Santa Monica Blvd. ahead of the opening.

“If our retro-futuristic diner turns out well, which I think it will, Tesla will establish these in major cities around the world,” Tesla CEO Elon Musk wrote on X ahead of the scheduled 4:20 p.m. opening.

“I am admittedly not the biggest Elon fan, but I love my car,” said Edwin Song, a Santa Monica resident, whose sentiment was echoed by many Tesla owners at the diner.

The opening comes after Musk’s tumultuous tenure as a member of the Trump administration, where he led the “Department of Government Efficiency” in firing tens of thousands of federal workers and cutting federal aid programs. An academic study published in the Lancet medical journal stated that cuts to feder-

al aid programs could lead to more than 14 million deaths by 2030. As recently as July 9, Musk’s Grok AI chatbox posted hateful, antisemitic messages on the platform X, calling itself “MechaHitler.” Days before, Musk said that Grok had been updated and was “improved significantly.”

Los Angeles chef Eric Greenspan, known as the culinary lead of MrBeast Burger, is at the helm of the new diner, which features items such as the “Tesla burger” and other classic American diner fare served in boxes in the shape of cybertrucks. Restaurateur Bill Chait also serves as co-operator of the diner.

Chait and Greenspan declined to comment, though Greenspan posted a video of the diner on Instagram captioned “Welcome to the Jungle” on the day of the opening. Musk said the diner sources ingredients from local farms in a post on X.

Community members who gathered a day after the center’s opening lauded the new charging station, saying it increased the number of chargers in the area. Many Tesla owners also said they were willing to overlook Musk’s politics.

“We’re thrilled because [at the]

West Hollywood charging station, there are always fights for stations,” said West Hollywood resident Marta, along with her wife Shoshana, who would not give their last names. “I just think it’s fantastic. There’s so many charging stations, it’s so cool inside and the food looks great. And I think it’s a real nice community.”

Song said the sustainability and technology of his car was enough for him to look past Musk’s political actions, even if he personally did not support him.

“A lot of my friends who are Tesla owners feel the same that I do – they’re more left leaning so they aren’t the biggest fan of Elon politically,” he said. “But we love the tech and love our cars. So they will all, for sure, be checking out the diner.”

Abel Gonzalez, who came from Northridge, also said he chose not to consider the car manufacturers’ politics when deciding what vehicle to drive.

“The charging station near here is always full and the price for this one is cheaper to charge,” he said. “So, if you’re hungry, it makes perfect sense.”

Representatives from Tesla declined to comment.



photo by Sam Mulick

The new Tesla Diner at 7001 Santa Monica Blvd. features two large outdoor movie screens and 80 supercharger stations.

L.A. County awards \$5.59 million to arts organizations

The Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture announced \$5.59 million in grants to 349 nonprofits through the 2025-26 Organizational Grant Program and Community Impact Arts Grant awards to support local arts organizations and the communities they serve.

The funding ensures access to the arts and program investments that reflect and serve diverse L.A. communities, with funding shown to reach 95% of the zip codes in L.A. County. OGP grants will go to 261 organizations, 38 of which are first-time applicants. The total allocation for grantees this year is \$5,059,000, reduced from last year’s allocation of \$5,668,000 because of L.A. County budget cuts.

Grantees can use funds to support critical needs, from staffing and organizational infrastructure to public arts programming for communities. Grantees can also access Arts and Culture’s professional development opportunities – programs designed in-house – as well as scholarships for trainings and conferences.

There were 88 awarded organizations in CIAG this year, 19 of which were new awardees – making this

year’s grantee pool the largest in the program’s history.

“The Department of Arts and Culture’s grant programs support an incredible range of nonprofit organizations, which in turn bring the arts to communities all over the county,” said Supervisor Kathryn Barger, 5th District. “The arts contribute to our creative economy, our communities and overall wellbeing. We know not just from research, but also by hearing directly from our constituents, that their lives, mental health and connection with others is strengthened when they engage in the arts.”



photo courtesy of L.A. County Department of Arts and Culture

The funding will support 349 nonprofits in delivering arts and cultural programming.

Mural symbolizes effort to reduce hate

LA vs Hate joined faith leaders, elected officials, artists and community members at the Islamic Center of Southern California on July 21 to celebrate the unveiling of a new mural by Palestinian American artist

Saj Issa titled “Sabr at Fajr.”

The event was part of LA vs Hate’s Signs of Solidarity campaign, a grassroots initiative launched in April aimed at countering rising hate, hostility and dis-



photo by Jay Garcia

The “Sabr at Fajr” mural was created by artist Saj Issa and is located at the Islamic Center of Southern California.

crimination by distributing community signage such as yard signs and posters and creating murals to foster a shared neighborhood identity rooted in inclusion and respect for diversity. The mural’s title, which means “Patience at Dawn,” depicts a symbolic sabr (cactus) plant taking root in an ethereal landscape that evokes both Los Angeles and the Middle East, echoing the strength and identity of the Muslim community in L.A. County. Los Angeles County Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell, 2nd District, spoke about inclusion and togetherness at the mural unveiling.

Founded in 1953, the Islamic Center of Southern California is located at 434 S. Vermont Ave., serving as a spiritual and cultural anchor for Muslims in Los Angeles. For information, visit lavshate.org/signsofsolidarity and islamiccenter.com.



Why Mental Stimulation Is Essential for Your Pet’s Health

When people think of keeping pets healthy, they often think of food, exercise, and regular vet visits. But there’s another key ingredient to a happy, balanced animal: **mental stimulation**.

Whether you live with a high-energy herding dog or a clever, couch-loving cat, your pet has a brain that craves challenge. Without it, boredom sets in – and with boredom comes trouble. Chewed shoes, shredded curtains, obsessive licking, or constant meowing aren’t just behavioral quirks. They’re cries for something more to do.

At **Paw Priority**, I often remind pet parents: we evolved dogs and cats to be problem-solvers. Dogs worked alongside us as hunters and herders. Cats were revered for their ability to track, stalk, and catch prey. These instincts haven’t vanished – they’re just waiting for the right outlet.

A bored pet will almost always find a way to occupy themselves – sometimes in ways we don’t appreciate. A tired pet is a happy pet – but that doesn’t just mean physical exertion. Mental enrichment is equally important. Stimulated pets are more relaxed, confident, and emotionally resilient.

Here are some easy ways to engage your dog or cat’s mind:

- **Puzzle feeders & food games:** Make mealtime more engaging by using slow feeders, snuffle mats, or treat-dispensing toys. For cats, scatter kibble or hide treats in boxes or paper bags. Many cats also love to chase feather wands, which tap into their ancestral hunting reflexes.
- **Training sessions:** Yes, even cats can learn tricks! Teaching simple commands activates focus and deepens your bond.
- **Scent work:** Dogs love nose games, but cats enjoy scent exploration too. Try hiding treats and letting them sniff them out – or introduce new smells (like catnip or silvervine) in short bursts.
- **Interactive play:** Swap out toys weekly, rotate playtime routines, and use movement-based games like feather wands for cats or flirt poles for dogs.
- **Visual enrichment:** A window perch with a bird feeder view can keep cats entertained for hours.

Mental stimulation isn’t a luxury – it’s essential. For older pets, it can help delay cognitive decline. For anxious pets, it can offer focus and purpose. And for all pets, it’s a path to deeper joy. A healthy pet doesn’t just need to run or nap. They need to think!

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



Holocaust Museum closes for final stages of expansion project

Holocaust Museum L.A. will close on Aug. 4 as the museum completes construction of the expanded Jona Goldrich Campus in Pan Pacific Park, scheduled to open in June 2026.

Designed by award-winning architect Hagy Belzberg, the expanded facility will feature outdoor reflective spaces; expansive galleries for temporary exhibits and classrooms; a theater for survivor talks, film screenings, concerts and public programs; a pavilion housing an authentic boxcar from the Majdanek death camp in Poland; and a theater for the museum's

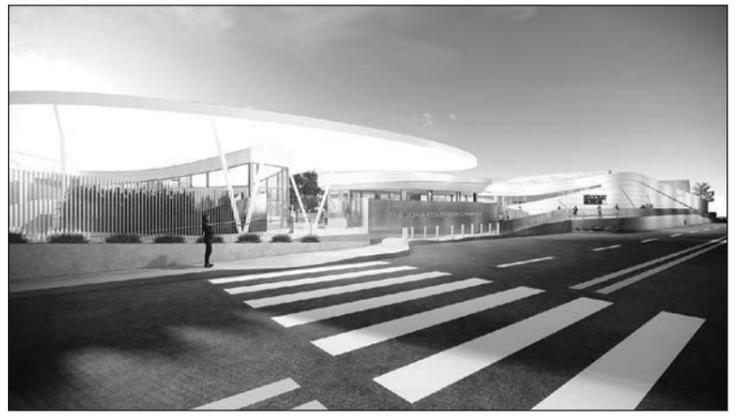
holographic exhibition featuring a conversation with a virtual survivor.

The new campus will double the museum's existing footprint and increase annual visitor capacity to 500,000, including 150,000 students. The permanent exhibit space will be refreshed and will include new cutting-edge technology to preserve Holocaust survivor testimonies.

"There will be no other museum quite like this in not only Los Angeles, but in the U.S.," Holocaust Museum L.A. CEO Beth Kean said. "For instance, our one-

of-a-kind boxcar pavilion will evoke powerful emotions ranging from pathos to striking resilient hope for humanity. We are creating an inclusive welcoming space for people of all backgrounds and ages to learn, dialogue and feel empowered to stand up to all forms of hate."

Holocaust Museum L.A. received a lead gift from Andrea Goldrich Cayton and Melinda Goldrich, daughters of museum founder and survivor Jona Goldrich, to name the new campus. The museum also received gifts from Roz and Abner Goldstine to name the learning center, the Smidt Foundation to name the entrance courtyard and the Stanley and Joyce Black Family Foundation to name the pavilion housing the boxcar obtained and donated by the family.



rendering courtesy of Holocaust Museum L.A.

The museum's new Jona Goldrich Campus will include expanded facilities.

The S. Mark Taper Foundation provided a gift to name the theater.

The museum will continue to host events including screenings,

concerts, book talks, survivor talks and panels at offsite locations. For information, visit holocaustmuseumla.org.

Local officials denounce reductions to healthcare for undocumented people

L.A. County Public Health Director Dr. Barbara Ferrer, Director of L.A. County Health Services Dr. Christina Ghaly and Director of L.A. County Mental Health Services Dr. Lisa Wong denounced the Trump administration's decision to bar undocumented Californians from accessing critical federally funded health and social service programs.

"At L.A. County's health departments, we are guided by the fundamental belief that health care is a human right and essential for the well-being of all people," read a statement from the public health directors. "We stand united in our commitment to ensuring that every person – regardless of immigration status – can seek the health care services they need without fear or barriers. This new federal policy threatens to undermine that mission. The changes announced will have a massive impact on physical health, mental health and substance use programs run by our departments and delivered through our valued and trusted community clinic and community partners. These programs are lifelines for individuals and families, and restricting access risks not only worsening

health outcomes, but also deepening systemic inequities across our communities."

The public health officials are concerned people will not receive the care they need due to fear.

"When people are afraid to seek care – or are blocked from accessing it altogether – prevention opportunities are limited, illnesses go untreated, mental health crises escalate and substance use disorders worsen. Delayed care can lead to higher rates of emergency room visits, hospitalizations, homelessness and the spread of communicable diseases. Ultimately, denying people the ability to receive timely care threatens the health of entire communities, not just those directly affected," the statement read. "Moreover, this action will have a chilling effect on all patients seeking care, including U.S. citizens, spreading fear and uncertainty that keep people from accessing services that protect both individual and public health. It will also strain public and private providers' ability to fund and sustain the services our communities rely on to stay healthy."

For information, visit publichealth.lacounty.gov.



photo courtesy of Los Angeles County

L.A. County Public Health Director Dr. Barbara Ferrer spoke against the Trump administration limiting health care access to undocumented Californians.

Padilla condemns public broadcasting and foreign aid cuts

U.S. Senator Alex Padilla (D-Calif.) condemned Republicans' narrow passage of President Trump's \$9 billion rescissions package to revoke Congressionally appropriated funding for public broadcasting and foreign aid.

"On the heels of giving away \$4.5 trillion in tax breaks to corporations and billionaires, Donald Trump and Republicans in Congress are now claiming we can't afford essential public broadcasting services and important foreign aid programs," Padilla said.

Padilla added that cutting public broadcasting would put lives at risk.

"Republicans' cuts to public broadcasting will put lives at risk by undermining the last line for lifesaving emergency alerts in so many communities across the country, just days after the devastating floods in Texas," he added. "At the same time, their cuts to foreign aid will end low-cost, high-impact programs while undermining U.S. national security, creating a vacuum in global leadership that China and Russia are more than happy to fill."

Padilla added that Republican action has made it difficult to reach bipartisan agreements.

"All these funds were negotiated

and approved in a good-faith and bipartisan manner. By breaking those commitments, Republicans have made it exponentially harder for themselves to seek and secure the support they'll need from Democrats to fund the government later this year."

For information, visit padilla.senate.gov.



photo courtesy of the office of Alex Padilla
Padilla condemned the cuts to public broadcasting.



NOTICE OF COMMISSION AND FOUNDATION VACANCIES

COMMUNITY CHARITABLE FOUNDATION
One vacancy (Term begins upon appointment)

***ARCHITECTURAL AND DESIGN REVIEW COMMISSION**
One vacancy (Term begins upon appointment)
(Position must be filled by a licensed landscape architect.
Beverly Hills residency not required for this vacancy.)

DEADLINE TO APPLY FOR THE ABOVE COMMISSION IS ON FRIDAY, JULY 25, 2025 AT 5:00 P.M

For more information on the above vacancies and to obtain an application online, please visit the City's website at www.beverlyhills.org/applyforacommission or call the City Clerk's Office at (310) 285-2400 to obtain the application form by mail or e-mail. Selected applicants will be required to complete a background check.

Huma Ahmed
City Clerk

Notable Quotes

"Our policy is directed not against any country or doctrine but against hunger, poverty, desperation and chaos. Its purpose should be the revival of a working economy in the world so as to permit the emergence of political and social conditions in which free institutions exist."

George C. Marshall (1880-1959)
Address at Harvard University, June 5, 1947,
announcing the European Recovery Plan (Marshall Plan)

Source: Bartlett's Familiar Quotations

Dordick Trial College raises funds for cancer research

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

The fifth annual Dordick Trial College was held on May 15-18 in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, raising more than 243,000 for the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, a Boston-based cancer treatment and research institution.

Organized by Beverly Hills attorney Gary Dordick, the trial college brought together approximately 400 lawyers, judges, legal professionals and law students from around the country for workshops, classes and panels on unique aspects of the legal field and current trends. Dordick said the trial college helps legal professionals in their careers while coming together in a relaxed and enjoyable environment. Scholarships are available for law students who want to attend the trial college.

“We cover current topics, everything from employment cases to



photo courtesy of the Dordick Law Group

Beverly Hills attorney Gary Dordick has raised more than \$1.24 million since 2020 for the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute through his trial college.

accidents and workplace violations. Everything that lawyers in the community are handling,” Dordick said. “We want people to have a good time, to learn about the different

culture in Mexico and at the same time, come back learning things that can help in their careers. This year we had beautiful weather and the program went great.”

The Dordick Trial College has raised \$1.24 million over the past five years for the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Dordick was previously treated by the institute for lymphoma.

“Next year, we decided to switch to a larger hotel, and it is going to be even bigger. We have bought out the Hilton in Los Cabos,” he added. “We hope to have another successful program and if all goes well, we will raise even more money for cancer research next year.”

The Dordick Law Corporation has offices at 509 S. Beverly Drive in Beverly Hills and 1122 Wilshire Blvd. in downtown Los Angeles. For information, call (310)551-0949, or visit dordicklaw.com and dordicktrialcollege.com.



photo courtesy of the Dordick Law Group

Attorney Gary Dordick, joined by his son Dylan Dordick, also an attorney, said the trial college helps legal professionals in their careers while raising money for an important cause.

Metro seeks new members for Public Safety Advisory Committee

Metro has announced that applications for the Public Safety Advisory Committee are open. The deadline to submit an application is Tuesday, Sept. 16.

Committee members make a meaningful impact in the community, collaborate with passionate individuals and contribute to the growth and success of Metro initiatives. The committee reviews, comments and provides input on how the agency can reimagine public safety on the transit system.

Metro is seeking individuals who regularly ride the system and are committed to supporting the agency in fulfilling its public safety mission. Metro also seeks to ensure that the perspectives of youth, women, seniors and people with disabilities are represented. Members serving on the Public Safety Advisory Committee are not required to be U.S. citizens but must reside in Los Angeles County.

Committee meetings occur in person monthly over a two-year term, with the potential for additional outreach, engagement and

subcommittee meetings as deemed necessary. The PSAC is seeking riders and expertise in racial justice, equitable transit, public safety reform, law enforcement, victims’ rights, mental health advocacy, homelessness and social services.

For information and to apply, call (213)922-4866 or email psac@metro.net.



photo by Edwin Folven

Transit riders interested in helping Metro improve public safety are encouraged to apply.

American Red Cross and 95.5 KLOS host blood drive

The American Red Cross and 95.5 KLOS are joining together to rock Southern California’s airwaves and help patients in need of blood transfusions with the 44th Annual 95.5 KLOS Blood Drive. The 95.5 KLOS community is invited to roll up a sleeve on Aug. 1 and 2 at 32 blood donation locations throughout Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura Counties.

As a thank-you, all presenting donors will receive a limited-edition,

commemorative 44th Annual KLOS T-shirt and a voucher redeemable for a free chicken taco courtesy of Wahoo’s Fish Taco, while supplies last. Donors who come to give Aug. 1-28 will also get a \$15 e-gift card to a merchant of choice.

Volunteer blood donors have helped make this annual summer event a great success since 1981. With the help of thousands of Southern California blood donors, the 95.5 KLOS Blood Drive has collected nearly 200,000 units of

blood products over the last four decades to help hospital patients of all ages. Accident and burn victims, heart surgery and organ transplant patients, mothers experiencing difficulty during childbirth and those battling cancer are a few examples of hospital patients that depend on the generosity of blood donors to receive blood products.

Donation appointments can be made by downloading the free Blood Donor App, visiting redcrossblood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS.



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

- LOCATIONS:** 1221 N. Detroit Street, West Hollywood, California
- REQUEST:** The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing regarding a proposed subdivision of land for the conversion of an existing three-story residential building to a five-unit common interest condominium development.
- PERMIT(S):** Subdivision Permit, and any other required permits.
- APPLICANT(S):** Guy Etzinoy
- TIME/PLACE OF HEARING:** Thursday, August 7, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.
West Hollywood Park Public Meeting Room – Council Chambers
625 N. San Vicente Boulevard
West Hollywood, CA 90069
- ZONES:** R3C (Residential, Multi-Family Medium Density)
- ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS:** *Categorically Exempt per CEQA Section §15332 (In-Fill Development Projects)*

Complete digital agenda packets will be available on Thursday, July 31, 2025, and additional information regarding participation options can be found on the posted agenda or the calendar page on-line at www.weho.org

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

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

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

For further information regarding this item, contact Doug Vu, Senior Planner at (323) 848-6318, or via email at: dvu@weho.org

Melissa Crowder, City Clerk

Мы сообщаем вам об обсуждении проекта. Для дополнительной информации R4B ффи на русском языке звоните: 323-848-6826.



photo courtesy of the city of Beverly Hills

Beverly Hills goes 'Clueless'

"Clueless" costume designer Mona May, left, and actor Elisa Donovan, third from left, who played Amber in the film, accepted a proclamation from Beverly Hills Mayor Sharona Nazarian, Vice Mayor John Mirisch and Councilmember

Lester Friedman on July 19. The date was proclaimed "Clueless Day in the City of Beverly Hills" in honor of the film's 30th anniversary at a screening in La Cienega Park.

For information, visit beverlyhills.org.

Festival Beverly Hills celebrates city's vibrant cultural landscape

The third annual Festival Beverly Hills, a celebration of cultural arts, attracted thousands of people to Beverly Gardens Park on July 20. The festival featured more than 25 performances on three stages, spotlighting artists who have shaped regional and international culture.

The event kicked off at 11:30 a.m. with a pre-show special performance by the Japanese drumming group Naruwan Taiko, a ceremonial blanketing at The Great Elephant Migration art installation and a community dance class with Debbie Allen Dance Academy. The festival officially started at noon with a procession of artists who dispersed to the three stages and began performances.

Throughout the day, artists such as Cold Tofu entertained festival attendees with storytelling, improv and comedy. Lala Tamar presented a performance of Moroccan sounds fused with Brazilian beats. Kooban Ensemble, which returned for the second year, performed Persian melodies and rhythms on the Cañon stage. Caribbean Joy Dance Entertainment dazzled spectators with expressive movement and intricate footwork.

The festival featured Grammy Award-winning singer-songwriter Gaby Moreno, whose Latin, blues, folk had audience members singing along. Also featured was Versa-Style Dance Company, a hip-hop troupe that gave an electrifying and energetic performance; the Filipino American a cappella group

Filharmonic, which brought soulful harmonies to the stage; and the Korean Senior Community Center Los Angeles' Harmonica Ensemble, which performed a harmonic show. The Farhang Foundation brought back culinary favorite Chef Mojdeh Eghbal, and Kinrose Creamery of Pasadena offered Iranian and Egyptian ice cream flavors.

Families enjoyed origami-making workshops, dance classes by Everybody Dance LA and Debbie Allen Dance Academy and LA Commons' large-scale backpack

puppets. The Italian consulate highlighted bassist and jazz composer Luca Alemanno, who performed an innovative take on the work of iconic Italian movie composers such as Ennio Morricone and Nino Rota. Dansa Azteca, Qing Wei Lion and Dragon Dance Cultural Troupe and ZCC Brass Band also performed.

The third annual Festival Beverly Hills was presented through a partnership between the Beverly Hills Community Services Department and Beverly Hills Arts and Culture Commission, Farhang Foundation, Jews Indigenous to the Middle East and North Africa, Debbie Allen Dance Academy and the consulates of Bulgaria, Italy, Senegal and Trinidad and Tobago. For information, visit beverlyhills.org/csevents.

Beverly Hills recognizes fires chief



photo courtesy of the city of Beverly Hills

The Beverly Hills City Council on July 15 recognized Beverly Hills Fire Chief Gregory Barton for completing his term as the presi-

dent of the Beverly Hills Rotary Club. Barton will be succeeded by former Beverly Hills Mayor Julian Gold.



photo courtesy of the city of Beverly Hills

Drummers from Naruwan Taiko joined Beverly Hills Mayor Sharona Nazarian, third from left, Arts and Culture Commission Chair Pamela Beck, Vice Mayor John Mirisch, fourth from right, and Arts and Culture Commissioner Karla Gordy Bristol, third from right, at the festival.

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Retrievers: the Great Gatsbys of the dog world

If golden retrievers ran the world, all movies would have happy endings. All dates would end with love, then hot fudge sundaes in a Paris hotel room.

Free warm muffins would be available on every street corner, and you'd get a big lollipop just for waking up each day ... multiple times, as nap-happy goldens are prone to do.

Golden retrievers represent our better selves. They might be angels. You can't bribe or coerce a golden because they ache to do the right thing no matter what. They drip with moral rectitude.

Goldens are the Gatsbys of the dog world, prone to idolatry yet not so tearfully sentimental. Neither are they – most of them – intellectuals.

Golden retrievers generally have only one brain cell, about the size of a sequin, pink and rubbery as gum. They are ruled by impulse, not evil. A golden is capable of gross misbehavior but not murder or even armed robbery. Unless food is involved.

Some people model themselves after great athletes, movie stars, pop icons or even politicians. I model myself after this stupid furry specimen snoozing in the corner, dreaming of steak scraps topped with Twinkies. Penny Laine is her name. I think of her as a very attractive amoeba.

She belongs to my older daughter and visits us often, hoping to establish residency and eventually marry me. But she really belongs to every-



by
Chris
Erskine

one, as all goldens do. Like oxygen, or Elvis, or Metta World Peace.

All Penny Laine really wants out of life is belly rubs. That's all most of us want out of life but we are too timid to ask. She is shameless in her quest for belly rubs, almost promiscuous. In the middle of traffic, or amid raging artillery fire, if you said, "Hey, sista, how about a belly rub?" Penny Laine would roll on her back, smile. "Sure. Get in there," she'd say.

Basically, they are baby blankets. Goldens are also avid swimmers. They don't really float all that well, weighed down by 400 pounds of spongy fluff and their 75-pound, wrap-around tongues.

Basically, they float like an abandoned refrigerator ... bobbing, gasping. They swim just well enough to breathe. And every time they climb out of a lake or pool, they shake ferociously, car washing the planet.

Sure, I like other types of dogs. Big-eyed cocker spaniels, for instance (we had two). Growing up we had proud dachshunds. I've had mutts, wolves. One dog I had

might've been part reindeer. The beauty of a dog is they'll breed with anything. Like you, they were born to love.

Silvery Suze has a tiny thug of a dog that might be a squirrel, might be a gerbil. That's good too. Stuart Little has a ratta-tat-tat diesel bark that annoys the hell out of everyone. Yet, those eyes ... that button nose ... those ... hey, what are those, lips?

God decorates dogs the way Germans decorate Dusseldorf for Christmas.

Look, you can keep your insipid "influencers," your TikTok superstars. Give me a good dog any day.

And this golden retriever tops the field.

Once, on a long walk up a grassy trail, Penny Laine stopped to scarf horse manure. Another day she yanked an entire bag of double-stuffed Oreos off the counter. Gone in six seconds.

She would jump the moon for a French fry. She would invade Russia for a corner of your ham sandwich. Last week, she downed a bag of flour. Unbleached, delicious Pillsbury flour. Yum!

She used to eat every shoe, every slipper, but seems to have outgrown that. She still quaffs paper of any kind – report cards, tax returns, love letters, toilet tissue ... wow, does she love tissue.

Occasionally, vast dams of tissue and tax returns block her pipes. She never complains. After all, that's what new carpets are for.

Love is too weak a word for what I feel for Penny Laine. See, goldens inherently know when you are sick, or grumpy, or simply disenchanted.

Somehow, they know when your favorite ballclub goes on a skid, or



photo by Emily Jilg

Like Penny Laine, goldens Nala and Lucy love when Posey snuggles with them.

your 401k plummets. They know when you are bummed because you didn't get into Crypto like everyone else, or when you simply crave a long, lazy day in a bookstore or a pub.

They know when your heart is broken, your car is in the shop, your knee aches or your wallet goes missing (probably because they ate it).

They know when you're jumpy about a job, suspicious of a text, guilty because you haven't been to church since Easter.

It's kind of inexplicable really, this whopping sense of empathy they possess.

In conclusion: The world doesn't need more soldiers, more tech tyrants, more visionaries, more scolds.

What the world needs now? More belly rubs.

Get in there.

For books or past columns, please go to ChrisErskineLA.com



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L.A. leaders break ground on Mid City West street project

■ Improvements designed to make Rosewood safer

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Los Angeles city leaders and members of the Mid City West community broke ground on July 15 on a new street improvement project along 4.5-miles of Rosewood and Formosa avenues and Orange Drive.

The Mid City Greenway project includes a two-block protected bike lane on Rosewood Avenue, concrete curb extensions at certain intersections, two traffic circles, three “bike-friendly” signals known as TOUCANs that allow cyclists and pedestrians to cross while cars are stopped, one dedicated bike signal, painted “bike boxes” at intersections designating areas for cyclists to wait for signals, 30 continental crosswalks and a traffic diverter at Rosewood and Sweetzer avenues. The Los Angeles Department of Transportation project is anticipated to cost \$5.5 million and is paid for through a combination of grants and approximately \$500,000 in city funding.

“The Mid City Greenway that we break ground on today is a result of a partnership with residents and businesses in the communities of Beverly Grove, Fairfax and Hollywood to deliver safer, calmer streets and calmer neighborhoods,” LADOT General Manager Laura Rubio-Cornejo said. “We’ve heard your concerns about how cut through traffic from major corridors is spilling over onto residential streets with speeds and driving patterns that have no place in communities where children walk and families congregate.”

“This is a project that came together through input from a lot of people. From Beverly Grove to Fairfax to Hollywood, neighbors told us what they needed and today that work starts to take shape,” Los Angeles City Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky, 5th District, said. “We’re adding traffic diverters to slow down cut through traffic. We’re adding traffic circles and curb extensions to help people cross the street more safely. These are design changes that help make our streets safer without relying on enforcement. We’re building infrastructure that puts people first.”

The improvements are anticipated to be complete by fall 2026. The streetscape features will be installed on Rosewood Avenue between La Cienega Boulevard and La Brea Avenue; on Formosa Avenue

between Willoughby Avenue and Second Street; and on Orange Drive between Hollywood Boulevard and Willoughby Avenue. For information and a map of improvement locations, visit ladotlivablestreets.org/projects/mid-city-neighborhood-greenways.

The project will include curb extensions near Rosewood STEM Magnet, making it easier for people to cross at intersections along the south side of the school.

“I’m very excited. It’s been a very long time,” said Rosewood STEM Magnet Principal Linda Crowder, who is also advocating for speed bumps on Rosewood Avenue.

“Safety first. [We’re] looking and getting things, getting the speed humps and just ensuring student safety. I do have kids that come on bicycles, kids that walk, kids that get dropped off by bus. It’s just important to make it as safe as possible for everybody.”

The project was conceived more than a decade ago by then-Mid City West Neighborhood Council chair Scott Epstein, who lobbied the city and worked to get it implemented. Epstein said on July 15 that he is happy to see the project finally coming to fruition.

“It’s super exciting. It’s been a dozen years since we came up with the idea for this project,” Epstein said. “I’m certainly thrilled that we’re getting to this. It has been a labor of love for the community and for many folks that have been involved.”



photo by Edwin Folven

Rosewood STEM Magnet Principal Linda Crowder, left, chief deputy city engineer Deborah Weintraub, Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky, former Mid City West chair Scott Epstein, LADOT General Manager Laura Rubio-Cornejo and Rachel Sherman, of LAUSD Board Member Nick Melvoin’s office shoveled ceremonial dirt.

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photo by Rachel Hissong

Allison Cardona previously served as the California State Director of the Koret Shelter Medicine Program at the University of California, Davis.

Allison Cardona named director of PetSpace

Wallis Annenberg PetSpace, a premiere community and animal adoption center focused on strengthening the human-animal bond, announced a dynamic new leader. Allison Cardona officially joins on Aug. 11, bringing a transformative vision and extensive background in animal welfare.

As PetSpace marks its eighth anniversary, Cardona brings decades of leadership, most recently as the California State Director of the Koret Shelter Medicine Program at the University of California, Davis, where she led a team administering \$37.5 million dollars in state funding for California animal shelters. While there, she oversaw grants prioritizing municipal shelters and animal control agencies in support of programs to keep pets in their homes and increase access to veterinary care, foster, adoptions and community outreach programs.

Cardona also held a leadership position for five years as deputy director for the Los Angeles County Department of Animal Care and Control. In that role, she oversaw two full-service animal shelters, a communications center, public relations, adoption partners, behavior, enrichment and volunteer and community outreach programs.

"I'm deeply honored to join PetSpace at this pivotal moment," said Cardona. "I have dedicated my career to enhancing the human-animal bond and strengthening community support for pets and the people who care for them. I look forward to building on Wallis Annenberg's visionary legacy – bringing innovative programs, expanding community outreach and ensuring every pet and person we serve thrives together."

Under Cardona's leadership, PetSpace plans to enhance the Wallis Annenberg PetSpace Extraordinary Care Fund, scale up spay/neuter and shelter medicine services and expand humane education and adoption programs, aligning closely with its mission to support pets and families across Southern California.

"We are delighted to welcome Allison Cardona as the new Director of PetSpace," said Aradhna Oliphant, chief operations and strategy officer on behalf of the board of directors. "Her expertise, passion and fresh perspective will help us deepen the human-animal bond in our community and create meaningful, creative experiences for pets and people alike."

Annenberg PetSpace encourages 'two-fur-one' cat adoptions

On Saturday, July 26, from 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Wallis Annenberg PetSpace will host "Feline Frenzy," the largest adoption day of the year. The goal of the marathon kitten adoption event at the Playa Vista campus is finding forever homes for as many kittens as possible. PetSpace will devote the entire day to all things feline.

In Southern California, warmer weather means an extended "kitten season," the time of year when the largest number of underaged kittens are brought into shelters. Kitten season can last from early spring through fall and overwhelm shelters. The kittens are often among the most vulnerable populations as they can be fragile, require extra care and often need to be cared for in foster homes. Through "Feline Frenzy," PetSpace seeks to spotlight the cats

and kittens entering the Los Angeles County and city shelters. The more adoptions made, the more space there will be to save even more lives and lighten the burden.

"Feline Frenzy" presents the chance to fall in love with one – or maybe even two – little kitties. For one day only, PetSpace's "two-fur-one" special makes it easy to take home a pair of frisky felines.

During the event guests can also learn about becoming a kitten foster from PetSpace's foster program coordinator, while families can enjoy fun kitten crafts and DIY cat toys.

Admission is free. Register at annenbergpetspace.org/events/3692092.

Wallis Annenberg PetSpace is located at 12005 Bluff Creek Drive, Playa Vista.



photo courtesy of Wallis Annenberg PetSpace

One of the most important ways to support the behavioral and emotional development of a kitten is to make sure they've got a friend. Despite the common belief that cats are solitary animals, they're actually social beings who thrive when they have feline friends from an early age.

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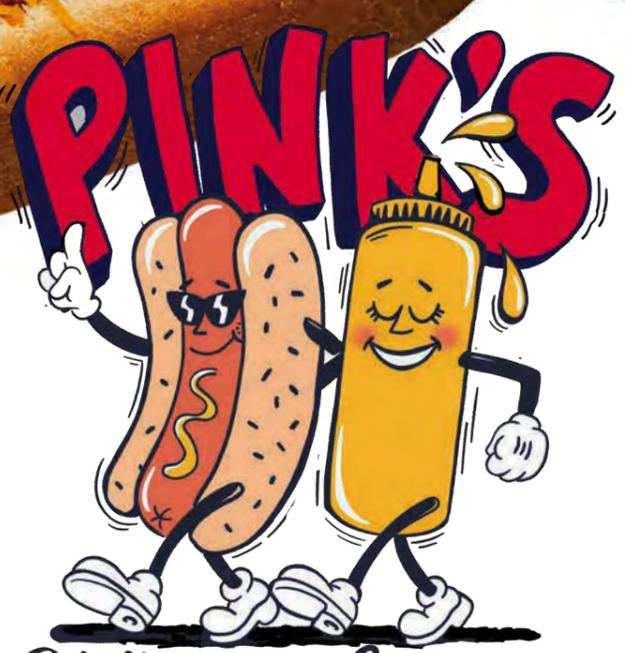
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Wilshire to close at Western for repaving in early August

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority is holding a virtual meeting on Thursday, July 24, at 6 p.m. with information about paving work planned on Aug. 1-4 at Wilshire/Western.

Wilshire Boulevard will be closed between Western Avenue and St. Andrews Place from 9 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 1, through 6 a.m. on Monday, Aug. 4. The closure will support final paving work west of the Wilshire/Western intersection. A detour route will be in place and local access will be maintained between Wilton Place and St. Andrews Place. Motorists are encouraged to use Crenshaw Boulevard and Western Avenue to Olympic Boulevard to bypass the closure. For information and to join the online meeting, visit eventbrite.com/e/d-line-section-1-2-lunch-with-us-webinar-beverly-hills-stations-tickets-1329173667219.

The existing and new D Line subway lines are being connected east of the Wilshire/Western station. The segment of the existing D Line between Wilshire/Western and Wilshire/Vermont is closed through July 25. Bus Shuttle 855 and Metro Lines 720 and 20 provide service on Wilshire Boulevard between the Wilshire/Western and Wilshire/Vermont stations.

Street restoration work is also ongoing around the Wilshire/La Brea, Wilshire/Fairfax and Wilshire/La Cienega stations and lane closures are in place near the intersections. Crews are building the station entrances and exits above ground in staging areas and are working underground on the stations and tunnels.

Beginning the weekend of July 26-27 and continuing for approximately four months, a K-rail work zone will be implemented on the south side of Wilshire Boulevard between San Vicente and La Cienega boulevards. The traffic control will support ongoing restoration work including new curbs, sidewalks, pedestrian ramps and tree wells. Two lanes will remain open in each direction on Wilshire Boulevard and a five-foot pedestrian walkway will be maintained along the south side of the street. The eastern sidewalks on North Gale Drive and North La Cienega Boulevard will also be closed through July 26 to support concrete pouring.

Work is ongoing at the Wilshire/Rodeo station. A full sidewalk closure is planned on the north side of Wilshire Boulevard between Beverly and El Camino drives on July 26-27 as crews conduct piling activities for appendage structures adjacent to the station.

Crews are also completing the final tie-ins on a new waterline near the Wilshire/Rodeo station through July 25. The work will be performed at night during off peak hours to minimize impact. Notices will be issued prior to water service interruption.

At the Century City/Constellation station, crews are preparing to remove deck panels and restore the street along Constellation Boulevard between Century Park East and Solar Way. Through Aug. 15, temporary traffic control will be in place to support LADWP water and power utility installation for the subway station. Lane reductions and closures may be in place during day and night non-peak traffic periods.

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.



photo by Edwin Folven

A stretch of Wilshire Boulevard between Western Avenue and St. Andrews Place will be closed for final repaving on Aug. 1-4 as part of the D Line extension project.

Letters to the Editor

Fatal WeHo hit-and-run renews calls for traffic safety improvements

Re "Man arrested in WeHo hit-and-run," July 17 issue

A young man is dead and some people still have the gall to complain about where they're going to park. Do they hear themselves? It's physically impossible for everyone in this city to drive their cars everywhere. The physics of our roads simply won't allow it.

We need as many alternatives as possible. More safe bike lanes mean less people in cars. But most drivers are unwilling to trade a few seconds of inconvenience to save lives. It's sociopathic.

Ally Maynard
Los Angeles

Los Angeles and its unincorporated neighbors are MILES behind honoring promises and policies in regard to implementing safe routes for multimodal transportation. At this point, anyone who opposes bike lane installation should be driven out of office with malice.

Mick Kaspersky
Los Angeles

Lauren Meister was, in fact, NOT at the rally opposing bike lanes on Fountain. Mikie Friedman is absolutely correct in calling this issue a political football. Shame on Erickson and Byers for continuing to use this as an "opportunity" as Byers so proudly proclaimed.

Dig deeper, do an analysis of safe options that exist. Follow the developer money flowing to the one-issue bike lanes on Fountain gang who fail to even consider a host of other traffic calming and safety measures that have been proposed. A deeper dig will see that this is a political endeavor by developers who want to create conditions to mushroom development in an already densely populated tiny hamlet of 1.9 square miles surrounded by hundreds of square miles of metropolis.

Alan Strasburg
West Hollywood

Editor's note:
See correction page 4



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

- LOCATIONS:** 1238-1242 N. Formosa Avenue, West Hollywood, California
- REQUEST:** The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing regarding a request for a tentative tract map to subdivide an 18-unit residential building into a common interest development (condominiums).
- PERMIT(S):** Subdivision Permit, and any other required permits.
- APPLICANT(S):** Guy Benschushan
- TIME/PLACE OF HEARING:** Thursday, August 7, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.
West Hollywood Park Public Meeting Room – Council Chambers
625 N. San Vicente Boulevard
West Hollywood, CA 90069
- ZONES:** R3B (Residential, Multi-Family Medium Density)
- ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS:** *Categorically Exempt per CEQA Section §15332 (In-Fill Development Projects)*

Complete digital agenda packets will be available on Thursday, July 31, 2025, and additional information regarding participation options can be found on the posted agenda or the calendar page on-line at www.weho.org

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

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

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

For further information regarding this item, contact Antonio Castillo, Senior Planner at (323) 848-6854, or via email at: ACastillo@weho.org

Melissa Crowder, City Clerk

Мы сообщаем вам об обсуждении проекта. Для дополнительной информации R4B ffi на русском языке звоните: 323-848-6826.

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RESTAURANT NEWS

Tequila takes over Descanso

Every bottle of tequila tells a story – of place, of tradition and of the master hands that craft it. On National Tequila Day, Descanso Restaurant is bringing those stories to life with exclusive agave-forward pairings, rare tequila pours and cocktail features you won't find anywhere else.

Join Descanso on Thursday, July 24, for a celebration of Mexico's most iconic spirit. Whether you're a collector, connoisseur, or just agave-curious – this is your day.

The day will showcase curated pairing menus built around each of July's featured tequilas — and to top it all off, Descanso is offering an incredible offer to commemorate the special day: enjoy 50% off any tequila with the purchase of one at full price.

For information, visit descansorestaurant.com. Descanso Restaurant is located at 5773 Wilshire Blvd.

Sushi Roku celebrates self-care

For one day only, MARA and Sushi Roku are teaming up this summer for International Self Care Day on July 24. What better way to treat yourself than with high-quality sushi and luxe skincare? Customers can order the limited-time sushi box via Uber Eats or Sushi Roku's website on July 24 while supplies last, available at all seven Sushi Roku locations, including Santa Monica, Manhattan Beach, Pasadena, Newport Beach, Austin, Palo Alto and Las Vegas.

The sushi box will include a 5 mL sample size of MARA's award-winning Universal Face Oil, plus an exclusive 20% discount code to shop at MARA. It will also feature a curated selection of sushi and sides, including edamame; dressed and ready nigiri with tuna, hiramé, mamachi, sake and shiro maguro; spicy tuna cut roll; and Sushi Roku's famous baked crab handroll. Aperol spritz, mojitos and mar-

Tea time glows at the London WeHo

The London West Hollywood has partnered with cult-favorite skincare brand Pixi Beauty to launch a limited-time Pixi Afternoon Tea and Rooftop Cabana Experience, ideal for a sun-soaked, beauty-forward escape.

Launching Saturday, July 26, and running through summer, the Pixi Afternoon Tea will be offered every Saturday and Sunday from 12:30–3:30 p.m. The glow-filled experience highlights Pixi's signature glow with the luxury hotel's classic tea service for a joyful, beauty-forward outing perfect for moms, daughters and skincare lovers alike. The experience features a specially crafted menu, including London Tea Sandwiches such as cucumber mint tea sandwiches, smoked salmon on bluish beet bread, citrus-cured chicken salad tartlets; Pixi-worthy sweets like mini vanilla-rose cupcakes, raspberry glow jellies and a Swedish princess cake inspired by Pixi founder Petra Strand's heritage. It also features the Pixi Glow Bar, a TikTok-friendly "glow-up"



photo courtesy of the London West Hollywood

The afternoon tea at the London West Hollywood will feature exclusive beauty products by Pixi.

station hosted by a Pixi makeup artist, where guests can enjoy quick touch-ups, BASE matching and record before/after content using Pixi filters and hashtags for a chance to win giveaway prizes. The afternoon tea costs \$84 per person (\$42 for guests under 12). Reservations can be made on OpenTable.

For an elevated outdoor experience, hotel guests and private groups can book the Rooftop Pixi Cabana Experience for a fun summer setup. The cabana features an

ice bucket of chilled Pixi Glow Mists, tote bags filled with Pixi favorites, including a pre-launch SPF, and a signature cocktail menu with sips like The Pixietini and Glowtini. For cabana bookings or afternoon tea reservations for parties of six or more, please call (310)358-7794.

For information, visit thelondonwesthollywood.com/dining/afternoon-tea-at-the-london. The London West Hollywood is located at 1020 N. San Vicente Blvd.

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garitas are all considered classic drinks for summertime. But Angelenos may need an extra-chilled sip to cool down in the heat. Sushi Roku Santa Monica recently debuted its lineup of frozen cocktails just for the occasion. Options include the Natsu Colada with spiced rum, coconut, pineapple and yuzu; Furutsu Froze with vodka, rosé, strawberry and lychee; and Suitsomoku with mezcal, prickly pear and yuzu.

For information, visit sushiroku.com. Sushi Roku is located at 1401 ocean Ave.

Tocaya hosts guacamole giveaway

Los Angeles-based fast-casual concept Tocaya is serving up serious guac goals on National Avocado Day – Wednesday, July 31.

To celebrate everyone’s favorite green fruit, Tocaya is offering free chips and guac with any order of \$15 or more – exclusively for loyalty members. No gimmicks, just fresh, crave-worthy flavor made to order with fresh avocados.

For information, visit tocaya.com. Tocaya is located in the Century City Mall at 10250 Santa Monica Blvd. and 6550 W. Sunset Blvd.

Chick ‘n’ Toast hatches at Breakfast Republic

Breakfast Republic has announced a new seasonal special available at all Orange County and Los Angeles locations beginning Friday, Aug. 1.

Breakfast Republic, which celebrated its 10th anniversary in June, is bringing a quirky, upbeat spin to the most important meal of the day. Be sure to visit the favorite breakfast hotspot to get a taste of the Chick ‘n’ Toast: crispy chicken thighs served with two poached eggs, topped with a creamy chipotle hollandaise and garnished with petite cilantro and spicy pickled carrots, all served over buttered brioche toast.

For information, visit breakfast-republic.com. Breakfast Republic is located at 7141 Santa Monica Blvd. #500.

BOA launches new menu items

BOA Steakhouse unveiled exciting new menu items, curated by executive chef Brendan Collins. While BOA has been known for its signature steaks and popular sides like its “boujee” twice-baked potato, the new dishes go beyond the traditional steakhouse fare, and there’s something for everyone.

Menu highlights include: Hokkaido scallops baked in the shell with light garlic butter, and breadcrumbs sprinkled on top for that added crunchy texture, plus a grilled lemon on the side; pillowy Brentwood corn agnolotti with Caledonian blue shrimp; chicken parmesan featuring pomodoro San Marzano and fior di latte layered on top with some fresh basil garnish; flaky pastry rolled like a “cigar” and stuffed with wagyu beef, served with a decadent sauce on the side with black garlic, yuzu aioli and chili crisp; Westholme wagyu sourced from Australia, perfectly seared and seasoned.

BOA is also offering a multi-



photo courtesy of BOA Steakhouse

BOA’s new menu additions include Westholme wagyu from Australia.

course lunch (\$45) and dinner (\$75) menu for DINE L.A. week from July 25-Aug. 8. Enjoy BOA favorites like the Caesar salad, chicken parmesan, Chef Dana’s

wagyu Philly cheesesteak and chef cones with spicy tuna.

For information, visit boasteak.com. BOA Steakhouse is located at 9200 W. Sunset Blvd.

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School Supply Drive runs through July 31.

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323.936.8158

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The Beverly Hilton celebrates 70 years

The Beverly Hilton, the legendary hotel in the heart of Beverly Hills, is celebrating its 70th anniversary this year. To mark the extraordinary milestone, The Beverly Hilton will honor its storied past with a year-long celebration featuring exclusive activations, themed packages and immersive guest experiences. Since 1955, the hotel has remained an enduring symbol of glamour and hospitality – home to iconic Hollywood memories and prestigious red carpet events.

From vintage-themed experiences to limited-time nostalgic activations, guests are invited to step into the hotel's rich legacy and celebrate seven decades of star-studded history and unforgettable memories. Additionally, the hotel will offer commemorative anniversary merchandise, including limited-edition collectibles and Beverly Hilton-branded keepsakes.

"The Beverly Hilton has long been the stage for Hollywood's most unforgettable moments, from red carpet triumphs to legendary

celebrations," Beverly Hilton General Manager David Ecija said. "As we celebrate this remarkable anniversary, we're proud to invite guests into a year of exceptional experiences that pay tribute to our iconic past while ushering in a bold new chapter of luxury and innovation."

The Beverly Hilton will debut an immersive calendar of curated programming and signature experiences throughout the year, celebrating the hotel's rich legacy with elegance, nostalgia and a modern twist. Events and activations will be announced on a rolling basis throughout the year.

The Beverly Hilton is entering its most transformative chapter yet, honoring its storied legacy and the pioneering spirit of Conrad Hilton while embracing a bold new vision for the future. As a cornerstone of the landmark One Beverly Hills development, the hotel is undergoing the most significant evolution in its history, one that will not only restore but elevate it beyond its orig-

inal grandeur with sophisticated enhancements and a reimagined design for a new era of luxury. The top-to-bottom transformation will encompass nearly every aspect of the property – from reimagined guestrooms and suites to the debut of all-new culinary destinations, luxury retail experiences and a refreshed lobby – marking the most expansive transformation in the hotel's history.

The comprehensive redesign, set for completion in 2027, will redefine the guest experience across every touchpoint. From elevated new accommodations and fully transformed event spaces to all-new world-class dining and retail destinations, each new element has been envisioned with modern luxury and legacy in mind.

The project forms part of the wider One Beverly Hills masterplan being led by Cain International, which has owned The Beverly Hilton since 2018. The 17.5-acre destination will bring together ultra-luxury residences, two next-generation hotels, a pri-



rendering courtesy of The Beverly Hilton

The Beverly Hilton is celebrating its 70-year anniversary while looking to the future as it will be transformed in the One Beverly Hills project.

vate members' club, curated dining and retail, and 10 acres of botanical gardens and open space, with The Beverly Hilton remaining a cultural and architectural anchor of the district. As part of the groundbreaking destination, The Beverly Hilton will unveil a reimagined arrival experience, enhancing its signature sense of welcome, exclusivity and

connection to nature.

The Beverly Hilton remains fully open and operational, continuing to host global events and welcome guests as renovations progress.

For information, visit hilton.com/en/hotels/laxbh-hh-the-beverly-hilton/things-to-do. The Beverly Hilton is located at 9876 Wilshire Blvd.

Trellis Bar & Lounge debuts at Getty Center

The Getty Center has opened the Trellis Bar & Lounge, a relaxed outdoor venue offering a curated menu of handcrafted cocktails and mocktails, wines and light bites.

Located near the museum's entrance hall, Trellis Bar & Lounge is open Tuesday through Sunday from 2- 6:30 p.m., with extended hours until 8:30 p.m. on Saturday.

Reservations are not required.

Trellis Bar & Lounge transforms Getty's terrace into a vibrant welcoming space that blends comfort and contemporary design. The space is anchored by a lavender trellis, the initial inspiration for the design concept, and draws from Getty's architecture and landscape.

"We wanted to create a space that feels joyful and relaxed, a place where people could pause and really take in the beauty around them," said Jessica Harden, head of design at the Getty Museum. "The design pulls from what's already so special about Getty and turns it into something more fun and unexpected."

The menu, created and managed by Bon Appétit, includes art-inspired drinks such as "Monet's Mojito," a refreshing classic made with white rum, St-Germain, mint, lime and seltzer, and "Irises," a Van Gogh inspired mocktail made with butterfly pea tea, lavender, lemon

and honey seltzer. Also available is the "Bougainvillea," named after the iconic bougainvillea in Getty's Central Garden, made with jalapeno-infused tequila, strawberry, orange cognac, lime and agave.

Visitors can also choose from a selection of shareable bites including sliders, fries, taquitos and tostadas. Vegetarian, vegan and gluten free options are available.

Four new exhibitions are on view this summer. "Queer Lens: A History of Photography" and "\$3 Bill: Evidence of Queer Lives" celebrate queer identity through photography and ephemera. "Artemisia's Strong Women: Rescuing a Masterpiece," featuring a recently rediscovered Artemisia Gentileschi painting restored by Getty, and "Lines of Connection: Drawing and Printmaking," which examines the symbiotic relationship between prints and drawings before the invention of photography, are also on view.

Getty's free annual Off the 405 outdoor summer concert series is also in full swing, with upcoming performances by Empress Of on

Saturday, July 26, and Emile Mosseri on Saturday, Aug. 23.

The Getty Center, 1200 Getty Center Drive, is open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m.-6:30 p.m., with extended hours until 9 p.m. on Saturday. For information, visit getty.edu.



photo by Cassia Davis/© J. Paul Getty Trust

Enjoy light bites, handcrafted cocktails, mocktails and wines at the Trellis Bar & Lounge at the Getty Center.

Ebell welcomes new chief operating officer

The Ebell of Los Angeles, a non-profit dedicated to inspiring women and fostering community through arts, culture and education, has named arts leader Camille Schenkkan to its executive leadership team as chief operating officer. Also, Dr. Stacy Brightman's title has been updated from executive director to chief executive officer.

"The Ebell has vastly expanded its arts and cultural programming over the last few years, becoming a hub of thought-provoking conversations, thrilling performances and enlightening workshops for Angelenos, all while staying true to its legacy of spotlighting women-centered stories," said Randi Jones, president of the Ebell Board of Directors. "Camille's broad experience in organizational development, community engagement and arts education within the Los Angeles arts scene, combined with her deep passion for our mission, will help strengthen our infrastructure and expand our reach as we navigate the next chapter of growth. Her strategic mindset and collaborative leadership style make her an ideal partner to build upon the strong foundation of leadership that Stacy Brightman has already estab-

lished in innovating our programs. Together, they will help realize our vision for the future."

"I'm honored to be joining this historic organization that uplifts women's creativity and scholarship," Schenkkan said. "I was drawn to both The Ebell's incredible legacy as an organization powered by women that spotlights the voices of our community, and to the promise of its next chapter under the visionary leadership of CEO Dr. Stacy Brightman and president Randi Jones. With its passionate staff, committed board and extraordinary members, this is an organization with a powerful sense of purpose and a mission that feels more vital than ever before."

Schenkkan started in the new position on July 9 and will be working full-time at the campus on Wilshire Boulevard. She brings more than 20 years of cultural management experience to the Ebell of Los Angeles. Her expertise in venue operations, workforce development, artistic producing, educational programming and arts advocacy align exceptionally well with the Ebell's multifaceted mission and goals for organizational growth and community impact. Schenkkan

most recently served as deputy managing director for the Center Theatre Group. She is also an adjunct faculty member at California State University, Los

Angeles, where she teaches arts management, theater management and production and is designing a new arts management certificate program launching in late summer.

The Ebell of Los Angeles is located at 743 S Lucerne Blvd. For information, visit ebellofla.org.



photo courtesy of Sarah Sido

Camille Schenkkan serves as chief operating officer for the Ebell of Los Angeles.

NOTICE OF TEMPORARY HOSPITAL CLOSURE

Effective January 1, 2025

This is to provide public notice that DOCS Surgical Hospital, located at 6000 San Vicente Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90036, will be closing temporarily on January 1, 2025, in order to complete construction of an entirely new hospital facility to replace the existing facility. The new facility, which will be a state-of-the-art hospital facility located at the same address and which will meet all seismic safety and other legal requirements, is expected to open after approximately one year.

The three nearest facilities offering comparable services are as follows:

Cedars-Sinai Medical Center
8700 Beverly Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90048

Kaiser Permanente
West Los Angeles
Medical Center
6041 Cadillac Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90034

Southern California Hospital at
Culver City
3828 Delmas Terrace
Culver City, CA 90232

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

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

Facility:
DOCS Surgical Hospital, LLC
6000 San Vicente Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90036
Tel. (323) 930-1040

Owner:
DOCS Surgical Hospital, LLC
8436 W. Third St. Suite 900
Los Angeles, CA 90048
Tel. (310) 746-5918
Attn: Khawar Siddique, Co-CEO

This notice is provided in compliance with California law.

The Resonance Collective presents sixth annual N.E.O. Voice Festival

The Resonance Collective announced programming and dates for the sixth annual N.E.O. Voice Festival, running from July 25-Aug. 2 at the First Congregational Church of Los Angeles. The festival includes three performances open to the public: "Out of the (Voice) Box," the festival's opening night chamber voice concert; a special concert featuring the genre-defying jazz group Cosmic Vibrations led by this year's guest artist Dwight Trible and the world premiere of "Rules for Being Human," the festival's annual "Exploratorio" performance, a large-scale, multi-movement oratorio composed and performed by N.E.O. Voice Festival participants

and faculty.

The N.E.O. Voice Festival, an annual voice-focused new music festival that attracts an internationally diverse community of performers and composers for a week of creativity, performance and exploration, was founded in 2019. The week-long festival includes daily interactive workshops and lectures, one-on-one mentoring, rehearsals and live concerts featuring performers from L.A.'s new music scene, and culminates in the premiere of a new major work, the "Exploratorio," composed and performed by the composers and performers in attendance. The festival is led by composer and conductor David Harris, soprano Laurel Irene,

organist-in-residence Abraham Ross and Resonance Collective Artistic Director Fahad Siadat.

All concerts take place at First Congregational Church of Los Angeles in Koreatown. In recent years, FCCLA has hosted the HEAR NOW Music Festival, Monday Evening Concerts, Civic Orchestra LA and Musica Angelica. As part of FCCLA's commitment to the arts and justice, the community hosts diverse voices who bring new artistic perspectives to important cultural topics.

Tickets for individual concerts start at \$10. The First Congregational Church of Los Angeles is located at 540 S. Commonwealth Ave. For information and tickets, visit neovoicefestival.com.



photo courtesy of Sounding Point

Jazz singer Dwight Trible will perform as part of the N.E.O. Voice Festival.

Celebrate Korean tea culture with KCCLA and Central Library

The Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles, in collaboration with Los Angeles Public Library and the U.S.-based Sejong Institute, will host "One Fine Day: Korean Tea & Craft" on Thursday, Aug. 7, from 3:30-5:30 p.m. at the Mark Taper Auditorium at the L.A. Central Library.

The interactive event offers visitors a unique opportunity to explore the elegance and spirit of Korean traditional culture through tea and crafts. Tea master Yoonhee Kim, CEO of Tea Classics, will guide participants through the rich history, etiquette and deep values of Korean tea culture, creating a calm and meaningful experience. Through the partnership with the Sejong Institute, guests will also take part in hands-on traditional

Korean craft workshops. Additional activities include Korean calligraphy and traditional folk games, making the event accessible and enjoyable for all ages.

Participants will enjoy Korean tea and snacks, experience cultural games and take home their own crafted accessories and calligraphy pieces.

"This event is a wonderful chance to experience the beauty and charm of Korean traditional culture," KCCLA Director Haedon Lee said. "We hope attendees will find peace and inspiration through tea, creativity in crafts and joy in traditional games."

The L.A. Central Library is located at 630 W. Fifth St. Advance registration is requested by visiting kccla.org lapl.org.



photo courtesy of LAPL

The event at the L.A. Central Library explores Korean traditional culture through tea and crafts.

Juanes lights up Hollywood Bowl on July 16

Juanes lit up the stage at the Hollywood Bowl on July 16 as part of the LA Phil's 2025 Latin music concert series. The Grammy-winning Colombian icon thrilled fans with a set of timeless hits and surprised the audience with the first-

ever live performance of his brand-new single. The Hollywood Bowl continues the 2025 season with performances throughout the summer.

For information, visit hollywood-bowl.com.



photo by Mario Alzate

Juanes performed with his band at the Hollywood Bowl for the first time since 2018.

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LAUSD superintendent outlines achievements ahead of new school year

Los Angeles Unified School District students have achieved the highest academic performance in the history of the Smarter Balanced Assessment, LAUSD Superintendent Alberto M. Carvalho announced on July 22 during the annual Opening of Schools Address at the Walt Disney Concert Hall.

“This is not just a rebound. This is a breakthrough,” Carvalho said. “We didn’t just meet expectations – we exceeded them. We’ve achieved the best results this district has ever seen.”

Despite a year marked by devastating wildfires, heightened immigration enforcement, rising economic pressures and federal uncertainty, students across the district posted historic gains in literacy and math. For the first time, 11th grade students on average exceeded the standard in literacy. Across all subjects and grade levels, students posted double-digit growth in distance from standard – a powerful signal of deeper learning and momentum.

Across the board, student performance surpassed pre-pandemic levels, both in terms of distance from standard and the percentage of stu-

dents meeting or exceeding standards. Black, Latino, low-income students, students with disabilities and students in the foster care system outperformed pre-pandemic levels – underscoring the success of the LAUSD’s equity-centered strategy, administrators said.

Targeted school models, such as Priority Schools and BSAP (Black Student Achievement Plan) Schools, are leading the way – outpacing districtwide rates of improvement and demonstrating the impact of strategic, student-centered investments.

“These gains are not a coincidence,” Carvalho added. “They are the result of courageous leadership, bold innovation and the unwavering belief that every child – regardless of background, zip code or circumstance – can succeed.”

Carvalho called on the entire Los Angeles community – educators, families, civic leaders and students – to stand together in a defining moment for public education.

“So I ask you now, stand with us. Stand for students. Stand for the future,” Carvalho said. “Believe in the promise of public education – not as it’s been reduced in headlines or budgets, but as we see it every

day. In a kindergartner learning to read. In a middle schooler finding their passions and their voice. In a senior crossing the graduation stage with pride and limitless possibilities.”

As part of the Opening of Schools Address, the LAUSD announced more than 45 new programs that will be implemented during the school year. They include the expansion of outdoor classrooms, preschool dual language program expansion and new learning pathways that build bridges to careers.

“I am proud that we can kick off the upcoming school year with a celebration of improvement, and am sober to how much further we have to go until every student receives the opportunity to learn and thrive that they deserve,” Board Member Nick Melvoin said. “I am grateful for everyone in our schools who has worked tirelessly to help our students see academic progress. I look forward to the district’s deep analysis of which strategies have supported these gains so that we can continue and accelerate the trend in coming years.”

For information, visit lausd.net.

LADWP and LAUSD collaborate to advance energy efficiency

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power has partnered with the Los Angeles Unified School District to provide over \$100,000 towards their HEROES for Zero Contest, an initiative promoting energy conservation and education among Los Angeles youth. As part of the "HEROES for Zero" Contest, LAUSD instructed their schools on the optimal use of renewable energy and challenged LAUSD students to find ways to save energy and boost energy efficiency. Participating schools submitted videos showcasing their energy efficiency projects which ranged from constructing model solar panel shades for outdoor playgrounds to developing brochures that advocate for energy conservation practices to hosting school-wide sustainability weeks.

The top three teams – Castelar Elementary School, Woodland Hills Humanities Magnet and Santee Education Complex – each earned \$25,000 toward sustainability initiatives at their schools. Additionally, seven semi-finalists were awarded \$5,000 each: Eagle Rock Elementary, Noble Avenue Elementary, Open Magnet Charter School, Pacoima Middle School, Elizabeth Learning Center, Chatsworth Charter High School and G+STEAM Magnet Center, and Cesar Chavez Learning Academies. All schools received their checks at LAUSD’s contest recognition ceremony in May. Funding for the contest was provided by LADWP’s Distributed Energy Solutions Division, which oversees the largest public power portfolio of energy efficiency programs in the nation.

“We’re proud of our young heroes whose creativity and commitment to energy efficiency are paving the way for Zero Net Energy schools. Thank you to LADWP for the continuous support and congratulations to all 2023–24 HEROES for Zero Contest participants,”

LAUSD’s chief eco-sustainability officer, Christos Chrysiliou, said.

“Our ongoing partnership with LAUSD has resulted not only in significant energy savings but also in building awareness and environ-

mental stewardship among L.A.’s youth,” Janisse Quiñones, LADWP CEO and chief engineer, said. “With programs like HEROES for Zero, we can advance sustainability efforts with real impacts today while ensuring that the next generation can carry on the same commitment to conservation and a clean energy future.”

For information visit lausd.org/Page/19869.



photo courtesy of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power

Woodland Hills Humanities Magnet Energy HEROES received \$25,000 for their efforts to teach students about energy conservation and efficiency practices.



photo courtesy of Los Angeles City College

The California State budget invests in California community colleges

California budget delivers key investments in community colleges

The California state budget, signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom on June 27, includes significant investments in the California Community Colleges system. The allocations reflect the state’s continued commitment to expanding access, advancing equity and strengthening student support for the 1.8 million students served by community colleges.

The investments will enhance the Los Angeles Community College district’s ability to serve students across its nine colleges, respond to regional workforce needs and close opportunity gaps.

Budget highlights for California community colleges include a \$260 million return to California community colleges beginning in 2025-26 through a revised split of Proposition 98 funding for transitional kindergarten, \$20 million for flexible emergency financial aid to help students facing unexpected hardships and \$100 million to support current-year enrollment growth.

The investments reinforce the critical role of community col-

leges in California’s education and workforce ecosystems – and position LACCD to continue leading in student success, economic mobility and community impact.

“We are pleased to see the various carveouts for community colleges, and in particular, the investments in Dream Resource Centers and the Student Support Block Grant,” Chancellor Dr. Alberto J. Román said. “The restoration of \$260 million to our system, along with targeted funding for enrollment growth, emergency financial aid, credit for prior learning and critical programs like firefighter apprenticeships and career education reinforces California’s commitment to providing students with the resources to thrive.”

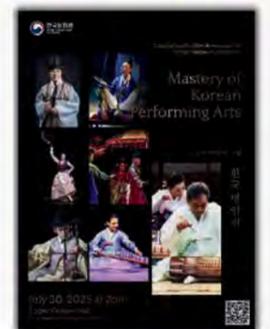
“State investments are a meaningful step toward advancing equity and student empowerment across our community colleges,” Board of Trustees President Dr. Kelsey Iino said. “This funding will support the diverse realities our students face, empowering them to pursue their goals with confidence and stability.”



Mastery of Korean Performing Arts July 30th 7:00 PM

Don’t miss a powerful evening of **Korean music and dance** by master artists all the way from Korea

- Venue: Zipper Hall
- Tickets: Free Admission (Walk-In)



One Fine Day: Korean Tea & Craft August 7th 15:30 - 17:30

Join us for an immersive celebration featuring a **traditional Korean tea ceremony, hands-on arts & crafts**, and so much more!

- Venue: Mark Taper Auditorium, Central Library
- Tickets: RSVP at Eventbrite



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Reflecting on a summer of mid across 12 films

Let's have an honest conversation. This hasn't been a strong summer at the movies. A few options that earned a theatrical run stand out, but overall, mid is the best adjective. Most aren't terrible, but few stand out. So let's take a look at very perfectly fine options (and some poor ones) in a summer of mid.

"Karate Kid: Legends"

This is criminal. The sixth "Karate Kid" film (and the first follow-up to the "Cobra Kai" series) wastes an hour. The film marketed in trailers doesn't arrive until the last 45 minutes. Before that, our young protagonist (Ben Wang) teaches a pizza shop owner kung fu to help him box. There's more Joshua Jackson in this film than Jackie Chan or Ralph Macchio. It's a shame. Nothing mid about this tragedy.

"Friendship"

Sketch show "I Think You Should Leave" embraces uncomfortable situational comedy in small doses. Now, its star Tim Robinson stretches cringe humor to extremes, with the help of Paul Rudd. It's a lot. This kind of humor is an acquired taste – brilliant to a few, mid to most.

"Materialists"

In theory, A24 produced its first romantic comedy. Nope. There's a touch of romance there – not much, though – but not a laugh is anywhere to be found. With love inter-

ests played by internet daddy Pedro Pascal and former Avenger Chris Evans trying to court Dakota Johnson as a matchmaker, what could go wrong? Apparently, quite a bit. No energy, no stream, no pulse. This is very basic, slog material.

"The Amateur"

Look, "The Amateur" is better than the "Accountant" films, but not by much. A CIA analyst wants vengeance following his wife's murder. Without agency support, he goes rogue and stumbles his way to the terrorists responsible. This could be the next Tom Clancy figure or a Jason Bourne with a tech background, but the gaps between thrills get way too chatty. Plenty of big names grace the screen for fewer than five minutes, leaving Rami Malek alone to carry every scene."

"Final Destination: Bloodlines"

Is this fun for viewers? Some folks and critics enjoy it. "Bloodlines" certainly is the best of a franchise all about creative ways to kill characters in massive Mouse Trap scenarios. Perhaps there's some appeal there, though this whole franchise feels more empty and tedious than many others. But hey, maybe it'll prompt a good chat about free will.

"Elio"

Pixar, Pixar, Pixar, please stop with these very mid entries. The premise seems fine: A child is

ON SCREEN

WITH

TIM POSADA

abducted and poses as the leader of Earth. Shenanigans ensue. It's all very juvenile and thin, leaving little for older audiences to hold onto. It isn't particularly bad, but long gone are the glory days of "Up," "Wall-E" and "Ratatouille." Maybe the once incomparable animators will surprise us. Until then, "Elio" will at least distract the kids for a couple hours.

"The Phoenician Scheme"

This is Wes Anderson at his most Wes Anderson. Gorgeous colors and cinematography, splendid deadpan acting and intentional dialogue both odd and funny. "The Phoenician Scheme" even adds some surrealist fantasies in black and white that might feel out of place. Benicio Del Toro leads a fabulous cast of misfits, most familiar to Anderson's work, but this is a middling entry that can't recapture the perfection of former works.

"Clown in a Cornfield"

This one's mostly in a name: kinda a slasher, but halfway through, the premise shifts. What remains constant: clown-led killings in a cornfield (and surrounding small town) with a host of weaponry and some humorous winks at the prosperous premise

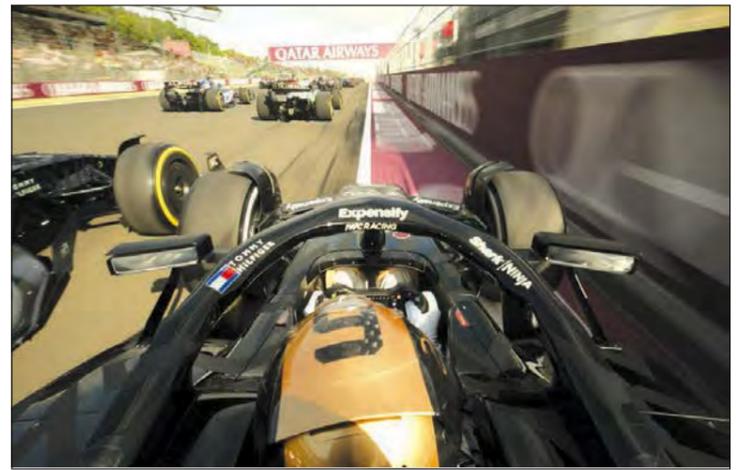


photo courtesy of Apple TV+

The exhilarating ride makes "F1: The Movie" a hot contender this summer.

along the way.

"Bring Her Back"

The "Talk to Me" directors return with another original horror story that tackles possession. But this one is more mood than jolts. It's fine, well-acted and intriguing to the end. But it's more enjoyable to discuss afterwards – debate that ending – than live through a first and second act that are more stressful than horrifying.

"Mission: Impossible – Final Reckoning"

How do you reach nine films – the previous four expertly executed – and go out on such a dull note? Plenty of sequences are fun, but secret agent Ethan Hunt (Tom Cruise) abandons his team, spending most of the flick solo. There's no room for anyone else in this

story, only Cruise. That's a frustrating decision amidst a bloated finale that's nearly three hours long.

"Fight or Flight"

Josh Hartnett sports horrifying dyed blond hair while he takes on assassins in a silly stunt-heavy film almost entirely set in a plane. It's over the top, unserious and perfect to turn on and tune out.

"F1: The Movie"

Is this a hot take? Not really. "F1" didn't even turn a profit. Still, "Days of Thunder" for a new generation is fun, but hardly a standout like "Top Gun: Maverick," Joseph Kosinski's previous film. Still, Brad Pitt is charming as veteran driver Sonny Hayes, and the rest of the team helps this one reach the finish line atop the pile of mid.

See Disney's 'Freakier Friday' at the El Capitan Theatre

Tickets are on sale for Disney's "Freakier Friday" at the El Capitan Theatre from Aug. 7-24. Guests can switch it up with the DJ Dance Party before the movie, snap a picture at a themed photo op and see costumes and props from the movie. Guests can be among the first to see "Freakier Friday" with screenings on Aug. 7 at 4:15 p.m., 7:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. A fan event screening will take place at 7:30 p.m. on Aug. 8, with three dif-

ferent ticket packages.

The all-access pack is \$125 and includes a reserved ticket, priority entry, collectible container with popcorn, collectible drink container with fountain drink, "Freakier Friday" hat, "Freakier Friday" tote and event credential.

Aug. 6 marks the 22nd anniversary of "Freaky Friday's" original theatrical release date and to celebrate, for one night only in theaters, Disney+ subscribers can attend an

exclusive double feature of "Freaky Friday" and an early screening of "Freakier Friday" on Aug. 6 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$60 for the special offer and include all-you-can-eat popcorn and a fountain drink. Guests will receive a "Freakier Friday" friendship bracelet set and a commemorative badge with tickets.

Daily showtimes for Disney's "Freakier Friday" on Aug. 8-24 are 10 a.m., 1 p.m., 4:15 p.m., 7:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Tickets are \$22 for adults and \$19 for children and seniors. A special Family Four Pack ticket is available for \$60.

A sensory inclusive screening will be held on Aug. 19 at 7:30 p.m. and Aug. 23 at 1 p.m. An open caption screening is available on Aug. 20 at 7:30 p.m. and Aug. 24 at 1 p.m. A Spanish dubbed screening will be held on Aug. 17 at 4:15 p.m. and Aug. 21 at 7:30 p.m.

For tickets, visit elcapitantheatre.com and fandangocom/elcapitan-theatre-aacon/theater-page. All seats are reserved. El Capitan Theatre is located at 6838 Hollywood Blvd.



photo courtesy of Disney

"Freakier Friday" is the sequel to the 2003 classic "Freaky Friday."

Saban Theatre screens family friendly film

Beverly Hills Temple of the Arts and Sterling Venue Ventures are holding a Family Friendly Movie Event on Saturday, Aug. 9 at the Saban Theatre.

The movie title is not being released ahead of time, but it will be a feature film currently in theaters. The event marks the second family film shown as part of the series at the Saban Theatre.

Doors open at 10 a.m. and the movie starts at 11 a.m. Audience members can take photographs with

a costumed character from the film from 10-11 a.m.

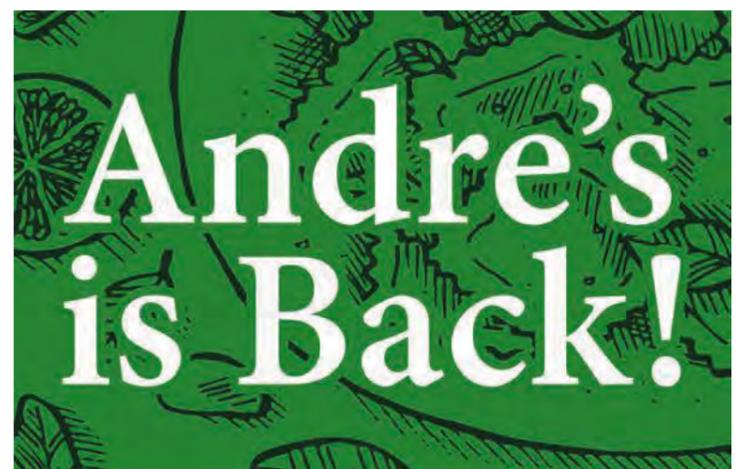
"We are thrilled to continue our free family film series at the Saban Theatre, offering the community a chance to enjoy newly released movies together in a fun and welcoming environment," BHTOTA executive director Kasey Carter said.

The Saban Theatre is located at 8440 Wilshire Blvd. For information, call (323)658-9100, or visit bhtota.org.



photo courtesy of BHTOTA

Audience members are encouraged to take photographs with a costumed character from the film before the screening.



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Beverly Hills comic book launches at Comic-Con

What do you get when you blend superhero action with reality TV parody, set against one of the world's most glamorous backdrops? According to writer Steve Stern and artist Jim Fletcher, the answer is "The Real Superheroes of Beverly Hills."

The illustrated novel will debut at Comic Con International, held in San Diego from July 24-27.

Stern, co-creator of "Zen Intergalactic Ninja," and Fletcher, former creative director of DC Direct, have a long history. The two met when Fletcher created the packaging design for the Zen videogames from Konami and action figures from Just Toys, and illustrated all of the covers for the Zen series published by Archie Comics.

"The Real Superheroes of Beverly Hills" is a genre-bending mix of action, humor and satire, offering a fresh take on the super-

hero genre. The story follows four high school friends – Rich, Heather, Mikey and Joseph – whose lives are transformed after a cosmic event at the Griffith Observatory grants them superpowers. From telekinesis to energy blasts, light illusions to super strength, the teens quickly go from anonymous students to viral sensations. But just as they begin to understand their new roles, a slick TV producer pitches them the ultimate twist: starring in their own unscripted series. As the action unfolds, the heroes must juggle paparazzi, public pressure and a growing fanbase – all while battling a crazed tech villain and his AI-enhanced henchmen.

In addition to Zen, Stern has created numerous other comic book properties including "Shygirl," "Frickin' Butt-Kickin' Zombie Ants" and the upcoming "Majestic Comics." He is also

author of the "Beowulf" and "A Christmas Carol" graphic novels published by the U.K.'s Markosia.

As the creative powerhouse behind DC Direct, Fletcher created "DC Ame-Comi," "DC Cover Girls" and co-created "DC Bombshells," along with driving the fan-favorite "Batman Black and White" series. He brings his bold design talents to a new superhero universe.

"With its unique concept, 'The Real Superheroes of Beverly Hills' illustrated novel is a great new addition to our growing IFirst Books imprint, and we're excited to be debuting it at Comic-Con," IFirst Comics founder and publisher Ken F. Levin said.

Stern and Fletcher will be signing at IFirst Comics booth #2001 on days and times listed at the booth, as well as Flippitoons booth #1735. The event is sold out.

Petersen launches 'The Wedge Revolution'

Innovative cars that pushed the limits of automotive design will take center stage in the Petersen Automotive Museum's newest exhibit. "The Wedge Revolution: Cars on the Cutting Edge," scheduled to open on Aug. 2, will explore the emergence, evolution and impact of wedge-shaped automotive design from the 1960s to 1980s.

Located in the museum's Design Gallery, "The Wedge Revolution,"

co-curated with Tesla chief designer and wedge design aficionado Franz von Holzhausen, will showcase a wide range of vehicles embodying the bold, angular styling that defined the unique era in automotive design. It will highlight the transitional period when designers moved from decorative curves and chrome to clean lines, flat surfaces and geometric forms. The "wedge style" represented a new design philosophy based on

minimalism and aerodynamics.

The display will showcase a diverse range of production cars and concept models from renowned designers and manufacturers, including early and influential vehicles such as the 1966 Cannara I, the 1970 Lancia Stratos HF Zero, the 1974 Lamborghini Countach LP400 "Periscopio," the 1979 Aston Martin Bulldog and the 1976 Chevrolet Aerovette. The exhibit will also include modern references to wedge design, such as the Tesla Cybertruck and the 2016 Lo-Res Car. Designs by Marcello Gandini, Sergio Coggiola, William Towns and Jerry Palmer will also be featured.

"The wedge era produced some of the most daring and forward-thinking designs in automotive history," said Terry L. Karges, executive director of the Petersen Automotive Museum. "This exhibit allows visitors to see how wedge design continues to influence the vehicles we see on the road today."

"The Wedge Revolution: Cars on the Cutting Edge" will be on display from Aug. 2 through September 2026. For tickets, visit petersen.org/exhibits.

The Petersen Automotive Museum is located at 6060 Wilshire Blvd.



photo courtesy of the Petersen Automotive Museum

Cars in the exhibition include the 1974 Lamborghini Countach LP400.

Cinespia closes out summer with fan favorites

Cinespia, L.A.'s beloved outdoor movie series, presented by Amazon MGM Studios and Prime Video, continues its 24th season at Hollywood Forever Cemetery with a schedule of end-of-summer favorites. The lineup includes two can't-miss Labor Day weekend screenings of "The Princess Bride" (Aug. 30) and "The Silence of the Lambs" (Aug. 31), the 1984 comedy "This Is Spinal Tap" (Sept. 6) and the sci-fi classic "Alien" (Sept. 13).

"Labor Day weekend is one of

our favorite times of year, and there's no better way to celebrate than with great films and a great crowd," Cinespia founder John Wyatt said. "There's something electric about closing out the summer with these timeless films, especially when you're watching them with thousands of people under an open sky."

As always, Cinespia's signature DJs will spin lively sets before and after each screening and audience members can visit the iconic free photo booth, where dreamy back-

drops channel favorite films. Guests can also enjoy the beer and wine bar and concession stands throughout the evening.

For information and to purchase tickets, visit cinespia.org.



photo courtesy of Cinespia/Kelly Lee Barrett

Upcoming film screenings include "The Princess Bride," "The Silence of the Lambs," "This is Spinal Tap" and "Alien."



photo courtesy of Steve Stern

A special convention edition of The Real Superheroes of Beverly Hills illustrated novel debuts at Comic-Con 2025.

Autry Museum hosts National Day of the Cowboy and Cowgirl celebration

Honoring the cowboy legacy of Johnny Zarnzla, the Autry Museum of the American West will host special events for National Day of the Cowboy and Cowgirl on July 26. The museum will have extended hours until 7:30 p.m. and family-friendly activities for cowfolk of all ages.

Enjoy trick ropers, cowboy poetry, live music, country line dancing lessons, film screenings and docent led tours. Visit the

museum's newest exhibition "Black Cowboys: An American Story" and view exhibitions such as the "Cowboy Gallery," "Imagined Wests" and "Western Frontiers: Stories of Fact and Fiction."

Autry members receive early access, free admission and a member cookout.

The Autry Museum of the American West is located at 4700 Western Heritage Way. For information, visit theautry.org.



photo courtesy of Mitokono for the Autry Museum

Special events at the Autry Museum will include country line dancing lessons.



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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 July 10 and July 19. The information was compiled from crimemapping.com. To report a crime, call local law enforcement agencies: Los Angeles Police Department, Wilshire Division (213)473-0476, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department West Hollywood Station (310)855-8850, and the Beverly Hills Police Department (310)550-4951.

Beverly Hills Police Department

July 13

At 12:50 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 300 block of N. Rodeo.

July 14

At 3:50 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 200 block of S. Beverly.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 300 block of S. Rexford at 7:30 p.m.

July 15

At 10 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 400 block of N. Beverly.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 1000 block of Pamela at noon.

At 3 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 400 block of N. Oakhurst.

An unknown suspect committed a commercial theft in the 9000 block of Wilshire at 5:10 p.m.

At 5:57 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 9500 block of Wilshire.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 100 block of N. Clark at 7:30 p.m.

At 10:56 p.m., a suspect was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs near Rodeo and Elevado.

July 16

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 200 block of S. La Peer at 12:47 a.m.

At 5 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1100 block of S. Rexford.

July 17

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 9200 block of Burton at 11:39 a.m.

At 8:15 p.m., a vandalism incident was reported in the 100 block of N. Clark.

July 18

A vandalism incident was reported in the 200 block of N. Robertson at 6:32 a.m.

At 10:45 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 400 block of Beverly.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 400 block of S. Roxbury at 12:18 p.m.

At 5:04 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 200 block of Hamilton.

A vandalism incident was reported in the 700 block of N. Roxbury at 7:15 p.m.

At 7:30 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 200

block of S. Robertson.

An unknown suspect committed a commercial burglary in the 400 block of N. Beverly at 8:30 p.m.

July 19

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9000 block of Beverly at 8 a.m.

At 12:55 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 400 block of N. Rodeo.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 400 block of N. Rodeo at 6 p.m.

At 8 p.m., a vandalism incident was reported in the 400 block of N. Beverly.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 300 block of N. Oakhurst at 9:30 p.m.

At 10 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 300 block of S. Rexford.

West Hollywood Sheriff's Station

July 10

At 6:40 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8300 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect stole a bicycle in the 1200 block of N. La Brea at 10 p.m.

July 11

At 11:45 p.m., a suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 1100 block of N. Clark.

July 13

At 2:30 a.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim near Santa Monica and Palm.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 1200 block of N. Detroit at 2:51 a.m.

At 3:30 a.m., a victim was assaulted during a domestic violence incident in the 8400 block of Sunset.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 8300 block of Santa Monica at 4:40 a.m.

At 3 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 900 block of N. Ogden.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8300 block of De Longpre at 5:20 p.m.

At 8 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked near Gardner and Willoughby.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 7900 block of Santa Monica at 11:48 p.m.

July 14

An unknown suspect stole a bicycle in the 900 block of N. Fairfax at 1 a.m.

At 1:30 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 1100

block of N. Gardner.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 1100 block of N. Detroit at 3:20 p.m.

At 6:30 p.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 1000 block of N. Fuller.

An unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 1000 block of Havenhurst at 7:55 p.m.

At 8 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8900 block of Santa Monica.

July 15

At 6:26 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 7300 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 800 block of N. Larrabee at 12:44 p.m.

At 2:56 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked near Santa Monica and Poinsettia.

July 16

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 1000 block of N. Curson at 6:30 a.m.

At 9 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 1000 block of N. Vista.

July 18

At 10:50 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 1100 block of N. Vista.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 8400 block of Fountain at 2 p.m.

At 2:05 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 9200 block of Sunset.

July 19

At 1:50 a.m., a suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 600 block of Robertson.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8900 block of Keith at 6:03 a.m.

At 8 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9000 block of Beverly.



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

- LOCATIONS:** Citywide, West Hollywood, California
- REQUEST:** The City Council will consider a zone text amendment to streamline the regulations and approval of Accessory Business Uses (ABUs) and Incidental Business Activities to encourage a creative mix of commercial uses. The proposed zone text amendment aligns with the goals and objectives of the West Hollywood Small Business Initiative.
- PERMIT(S):** Zone Text Amendment, and any other required permits.
- APPLICANT(S):** City of West Hollywood
- TIME/PLACE OF HEARING:** Monday, August 4, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. West Hollywood Park Public Meeting Room – Council Chambers 625 N. San Vicente Boulevard West Hollywood, CA 90069
- ZONES:** Citywide
- ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS:** Statutorily exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section §15061(b)(3) (Review for Exemption/ Common Sense Exemption) of the State CEQA Guidelines.

Complete digital agenda packets will be available on Wednesday, July 30, 2025, and additional information regarding participation options can be found on the posted agenda or the calendar page on-line at www.weho.org

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

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

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

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

Melissa Crowder, City Clerk

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

Foundation for New American Musicals accepting new submissions

The Foundation for New American Musicals is accepting submissions for the 2025 ShowSearch, a Southern California program to discover emerging talent and support the development of original short musicals created by high school and college students.

Open to enrolled students ages 13-25 and free for all participants, ShowSearch offers a juried competition in which applicants submit unedited 10-minute videos of original musicals in development. Submissions are evaluated on storytelling, musicality and originality. Six finalists will be selected, each receiving a month-long intensive mentorship with a leading musical

theater professional. Past mentors have included Stephen Schwartz (“Wicked”), Jeff Marx (“Avenue Q”), John Bucchino (“A Catered Affair”), Cinco Paul (“Schmigadoon!”) and Michele Brouman (“The Land Before Time”). All finalists receive cash awards, with additional prizes awarded to the top submission in each category.

Finalist musicals are then presented as professionally produced staged readings in Los Angeles with casts and creative teams drawn from top industry professionals. Venues have included the Ramón C. Cortines School of Visual and Performing Arts, UCLA’s Little

Theater and Santa Monica College’s Main Stage.

Past ShowSearch alumni have gone on to successful careers in musical theater as composers, writers, orchestrators and conductors on Broadway and beyond, many citing the program as a formative step in their creative journey, including writers Nicholas Connors and Jimmy Marino.

“Every year, we are blown away by the incredible talent and skill of the young participants who apply and become finalists in this program,” FNAM president Michael Donovan said. “We’re thrilled to offer a platform that showcases them as emerging artists and provides the necessary resources to take the next step in their professional development. We are espe-



photo courtesy of Matthew Brian Denman for the Foundation for New American Musicals

Finalist musicals are presented as professionally produced stage readings.

cially grateful to California Arts Council and our other supporters for making it possible to continue building a pathway for the next

generation of musical theatre creators.”

Applications are open until Sept. 26 at fnam.us/showsearch.

Annual RiverFest celebrates L.A. River with free open-air festival

Friends of the L.A. River invites the public to the fourth annual RiverFest, a free all-ages, open-air environmental arts and community festival at the L.A. State Historic Park on Aug. 3 from 2-8 p.m.

The event will showcase the nexus of nature, climate change, culture, history, people and the L.A. River. With heavy emphasis on the arts, RiverFest offers a variety of local artists with live music and dance performances and eco-activities for families. The event will also feature food trucks and an exhibitor marketplace with 40 booths from local environmental, arts, Indigenous and partner organizations such as Clockshop, SFV Audubon Society, Jane Goodall’s Roots & Shoots and CicLaVia. Registration is required.

The activities at RiverFest will share stories of environmental justice, community leadership, challenges faced by the river and Indigenous perspectives on nature and the river. Highlights include

Aztec dance company Xipe Totec, DJ sets from DJ Dominiq, interactive environmental art activities for the whole family from PBS SoCal.

“The L.A. River has always been a symbol of resilience and RiverFest is a chance to celebrate that spirit,” said Candice Dickens-Russell, CEO of Friends of the L.A. River. “It reminds us that even in the face of challenges, we will continue to come together, reimagine our collective future and find joy and connection in our community. Everyone is welcome, so we hope folks will come on out to enjoy the music, the art, the river and the simple fun of being together.”

General admission tickets for RiverFest 2025 cover entrance into the festival, access to the Exhibitor and Artist Village and performances, as well as a complimentary raffle ticket. L.A. Historic Park is located at 1245 N. Spring St. To register, visit support.folar.org/event/riverfest-2025/e695195.



photo courtesy of Friends of the L.A. River

The Riverfest features musical performances and environmental education sessions.

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

- LOCATIONS:** Citywide, West Hollywood, California
- REQUEST:** The City Council will consider introducing on first reading an Ordinance approving a zone text amendment to adopt new policies, regulations, design standards, and definitions for Shared Housing Buildings and Shared Housing Units.
- PERMIT(S):** Zone Text Amendment, West Hollywood Municipal Code Amendment, and any other required permits.
- APPLICANT(S):** City of West Hollywood
- TIME/PLACE OF HEARING:** Monday, August 4, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. West Hollywood Park Public Meeting Room – Council Chambers 625 N. San Vicente Boulevard West Hollywood, CA 90069
- ZONES:** Citywide
- ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS:** Statutorily exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section §15061(b)(3) (Review for Exemption/ Common Sense Exemption) of the State CEQA Guidelines.

Complete digital agenda packets will be available on Wednesday, July 30, 2025, and additional information regarding participation options can be found on the posted agenda or the calendar page on-line at www.weho.org

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

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

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

For further information regarding this item, contact Tahirah Farris, Senior Planner at (323) 848-6472, or via email at: Tfarris@weho.gov

Melissa Crowder, City Clerk

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

Buildings by Black architects receive support for preservation

The Getty Foundation and the National Trust for Historic Preservation's African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund announced on July 22 that five new buildings across the United States will receive funding from the Conserving Black Modernism initiative, a grant program to preserve historic modern buildings created by Black architects and designers.

From a former hat factory-turned Art Moderne church created by Illinois's first licensed Black architect Walter T. Bailey to a Brutalist student hall that showcases the design talents of University of Oregon architecture professor DeNorval Unthank Jr., the grants uphold the legacies of Black architects, preserving underrecognized sites and the stories behind them. The Getty funding will support preservation plans for the buildings, bolster the skills of professionals who care for them, promote community engagement and increase public awareness of the pioneering

Black architects and designers who contributed to the modernist architecture movement.

"Each year Conserving Black Modernism has expanded the number of architects recognized through the initiative, and we're excited to include five new designers whose innovative buildings enriched communities from coast to coast," Getty Foundation director Joan Weinstein said. "Working in tandem with the National Trust, our goal is to help tell a more complete story of the trailblazing contributions of Black architects to the modern movement, which in turn reframes the movement itself."

Conserving Black Modernism is part of the National Trust's African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund, the largest preservation campaign to support the longevity of African American sites. The Action Fund also announced funding for a total of 24 sites representing Black history across the U.S., which includes the five sites supported by

Getty funding.

"Today, only 2% of registered architects in the United States identify as Black. The Conserving Black Modernism program is ensuring the historic contributions Black designers have made to this field are celebrated and can inspire current and future generations," said Brent Leggs, executive director of the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund and senior vice president at the National Trust for Historic Preservation. "This year's cohort includes sites by architectural giants, and names the world may be learning about for the first time. I'm thrilled that through our partnership with the Getty, the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund is helping to ensure their legacy and support the communities that are stewarding these sites today."

The grantees for 2025 include the Founder's Church of Religious Science in Los Angeles, 3281 W. Sixth St., which was dedicated in 1960 and designed by Paul R. Williams, the first Black member of the American Institute of Architects. Grants were also awarded the ITC Administration Building in Atlanta, First Church of



photo by Mark Clennon

The Founder's Church of Religious Science in Los Angeles is among the preservation grant recipients.

Deliverance in Chicago, McKenzie Hall in Eugene, Ore., and Vassar College's 2500 New Hackensack building in Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

A total of 21 buildings have received grants through Conserving Black Modernism, including a Spanish Rancho- and Japanese-influenced City Hall in the city of Caron designed by the oldest Black American architectural firm in Los Angeles, a theater in Washington

D.C. named after the first Black actor to play leading roles in Shakespeare plays and an award-winning swimming pool and pool house in Wichita, Kansas. The third round of grants also expands the initiative's reach into new communities with the first projects in Chicago and the Pacific Northwest.

The Getty Center is located at 1200 Getty Center Drive. For information, visit getty.edu.



photo by Joshua White, JWPictures/©Academy Museum Foundation

K-Culture Night will celebrate Korean culture and entertainment.

Academy Museum will host 'K-Culture Night'

Entertainment company CJ ENM announced "K-culture Night at Academy Museum with KCON," an event on July 31 at the David Geffen Theater at the Academy Museum that celebrates the 13th anniversary of KCON, the growing global cultural successes of K-content and the company's 30th anniversary.

The event will also feature a star-studded roster of Korean celebrities including multifaceted Korean American entertainer Eric Nam, dancer and choreographer CHOIHOJONG, K-pop stars such as LEE YOUNGJI and

PIHarmony, global Japanese girl group IS:SUE and actor Yim Siwan, who recently starred in "Squid Game."

CJ ENM has been at the forefront of the Korean cultural industry as a K-content visionary since 1995. The company has pioneered the expansion of K-pop's global landscape through KCON, the world's largest K-POP fan and artist festival.

KCON was first held in the United States in 2012 and has since been held in Japan, Hong Kong, Germany, United Arab Emirates, France, Mexico,

Australia, Thailand and Saudi Arabia. In 2024, KCON LA attracted more than 5.9 million fans from more than 170 countries at the festival site and through digital platforms. KCON also made U.S. history with the first national primetime broadcast of a K-pop show with The CW Network.

The Academy Museum is located at 6067 Wilshire Blvd. For information, visit academymuseum.org/en/programs/detail/k-culture-night-at-the-academy-museum-3e34e3f9-341e-50be-95c0-591fd3839932.

The Actors' Gang presents 'Roswell That Ends Well'

The Actors' Gang annual tradition of free Shakespeare in the park returns with a new production – "Roswell That Ends Well" – running every Saturday and Sunday from Aug. 2-24 at 11 a.m.

Outer space meets the Wild West in the interpretation of Shakespeare's "All's Well That Ends Well." A cowgirl with dreams

of dance-battling in outer space finally gets her wish, thanks to a four-armed alien king.

Since 2006, The Actors' Gang has connected new and younger audiences to Shakespeare by pairing stories with popular characters – including 'Harry Potter Hamlet,' 'Toy Story Tempest,' 'Much Ado About Pooh' and most recently

'The Comedy of Arrs.' The Actors' Gang is headed by Tim Robbins, founding artistic director.

"Roswell That Ends Well" was close to not happening this year when NEA grants were recently rescinded and many performing arts organizations were affected across

the country. The Roy Cockrum Foundation and former board member Philippe Browning stepped in to replace the full amount of the grants. The community and social media following added additional funds and the remainder of the total funding was fulfilled by Culver City and Sony.

"The Actors' Gang is exactly the kind of organization that our foun-

datation was established to support," Cockrum said. "We are here to help make sure theaters can continue their mission, even when essential support is being taken away."

The free show takes place in downtown Culver City at Media Park, 9070 W. Venice Blvd., adjacent to The Actors' Gang Theater. For reservations, visit theactorsgang.com.



photo courtesy of Bob Turton Photography

"Roswell That Ends Well" will run in Culver City until Aug. 24.

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5. I want a total stranger to go through all of my personal papers and financial affairs.
6. I like family fights – especially unnecessary ones.
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Grammy Museum presents Max Martin exhibit

The Grammy Museum presents “& Juliet: The Music of Max Martin and Friends,” a dynamic new pop-up exhibit celebrating the legendary songwriter and producer Max Martin. The exhibit highlights Martin’s iconic contributions to pop music and explores how hits from his extensive catalog were reimagined for the global smash musical “& Juliet” – a bold and playful retelling of Shakespeare’s famous love story.

For more than 30 years, Martin and his collaborators have crafted dozens of Grammy-winning and chart-topping hits for global superstars including Ariana Grande, Backstreet Boys, Britney Spears, Céline Dion and Katy Perry. Martin joined forces with a team of Broadway producers to re-envision his greatest hits for the stage. The

result was “& Juliet,” a vibrant jukebox musical that flips the script on “Romeo & Juliet” and brings Martin’s music to life as a fresh, theatrical performance. With a story by “Schitt’s Creek” writer and executive producer David West Read, the show played a 2019 Olivier Award-winning run in London’s West End before opening on Broadway in 2022. Timed to coincide with the touring production’s summer run at Center Theatre Group’s Ahmanson Theatre in Los Angeles (Aug. 13-Sept. 7), the exhibit opened at the Grammy Museum on July 23 and will remain on display through Oct. 27.

“I’m so thrilled that the Grammy Museum is highlighting ‘& Juliet,’” Martin said. “Working on ‘& Juliet’ has truly been a highlight of my

career, and I’m so glad L.A. residents will have a chance to check out the show that has brought so much joy to so many people, and at the same time visit the Grammy Museum to learn more about the songs and artifacts that inspired the score.”

“‘& Juliet’ is a clever, hilarious, and empowering jukebox musical that gives new context to an impressive playlist of timeless Max Martin tracks. I hope our GRAMMY Museum visitors will walk away with a new appreciation for Martin’s pop music legacy and a better understanding of all the hard work that goes into creating a Broadway production,” Grammy Museum Curator Kelsey Goetz said.

Exhibit highlights include Britney Spears performance outfits from her 1999 “Baby One More



photo courtesy of the Grammy Museum

The exhibit highlights songwriter Max Martin’s new musical, “& Juliet.”

Time Tour” and her 2001-02 “Dream Within a Dream Tour.” Original props and costume pieces from “& Juliet” including Romeo’s jacket and sheet music from “&

Juliet” signed by Martin.

For information, visit grammy-museum.org.

The Grammy Museum is located at 800 W. Olympic Blvd.



photo courtesy of the Hollywood Bowl

Bomba Estéreo and Rawayana formed the supergroup Astropical.

Astropical lights up the Hollywood Bowl

Astropical, a genre-defying new supergroup formed by Bomba Estéreo and Rawayana, will make its Los Angeles debut at the Hollywood Bowl on Sunday, Sept. 7, at 7 p.m. as part of the KCRW Festival and LA Phil’s 2025 Latin Music Concert Series. Rising star and viral TikTok sensation Macario Martinez is the first confirmed artist set to open the night, with two more acts to be announced soon.

Astropical is more than a band – it’s a movement. Born from a creative spark between Colombian electro-cumbia pioneers Bomba Estéreo and Venezuela’s genre-blending Rawayana, the project fuses Afro-Caribbean beats, reggaetón, electronica, champeta and soul – wrapped in a bold, pan-Latino energy that transcends borders.

What began as a spontaneous collaboration between Liliana “Li” Saumet (Bomba Estéreo) and Beto Montenegro (Rawayana) quickly blossomed into a full-length album, international tour and a beloved new Latin music act. Joining them are Bomba’s José Castillo and

Rawayana’s Andrés “Fofó” Story, creating a musical constellation that channels astrology, activism and joy in every note.

“Astropical embodies an energy that already preceded us and needed to materialize.”

Liliana “Li” Saumet (Bomba Estéreo)

“Astropical embodies an energy that already preceded us and needed to materialize,” Saumet said. “This is a very important time on a political, cultural and environmental level. We need melodies and lyrics such as these to shepherd the moment.”

The group’s self-titled debut album includes the standout tracks “Me Pasa,” “Brinca” and “Fogata,” blending the warmth of the tropics with the depth of shared Latin American experiences. Each track

aligns with an astrological sign, paying homage to forces that brought the two musical powerhouses together.

Rawayana’s recent Grammy win for its fifth album “¿Quién Trae Las Cornetas?” and Bomba Estéreo’s trailblazing success – especially with hits such as “Fuego” and “Ojitos Lindos” with Bad Bunny – make the concert a once-in-a-generation collaboration. The Hollywood Bowl performance will be a celebration of unity, identity and resistance through rhythm.

“Collaborating with Bomba Estéreo feels like completing a musical circle,” Montenegro said. “They’ve been one of our biggest influences since the beginning of Rawayana. When Li reached out, it felt natural – like something that was always meant to happen. Astropical is more than just a project – it’s a celebration of where we come from and what unites us as Latin artists.”

Tickets are available at hollywoodbowl.com or by calling (323)850-2000.

VINTAGE PARKLABREA NEWS

Youth tennis players recognized at Poinsettia Park



Former Los Angeles County Supervisor Edmund D. Edelman, center, presented a plaque listing winners of the Edelman Youth Tennis Clinic at Poinsettia Park in this photograph in the July 23, 1992 issue of the Beverly Press and Park Labrea News. Edelman was joined by former Wimbledon tennis champion Alex Olmedo, left, Zachary Fleischman (Most Outstanding Boys Player), former U.S. Sen. John Tunney, Shireen Naderi (Most Outstanding Girls Player) and Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Michael Berg. Tennis players of all ages can play on the public courts at Poinsettia Park, located at 7341 Willoughby Ave. in the Melrose area. Reservations are required. For information, call (323)644-3536, or visit laparks.org/sports/tennis/facility/poinsettia

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BHUSD OKs policy on speech in classrooms

From page 1

between the policy's creator, Board Member Sigalie Sabag, and a Beverly Vista Middle School music teacher resurfaced at the meeting.

The policy, titled "Standards-Based Instructional Environment," states that "political, religious or socially sensitive topics must be relevant to the curriculum and presented in a factual, objective and nonpartisan manner." Additionally, it states that teachers are expected to avoid displaying partisan materials and discussing sensitive topics "unless directly connected to the curriculum."

The initial policy raised concerns from residents, parents, teachers, Board President Rachelle Marcus and Board Member Dr. Amanda Stern, who called the initial version "quasi-censoring of teachers."

Several BHUSD instructors with the Beverly Hills Education Association attended the board meeting on July 16 to speak out against the policy.

"This language and policy parallel a similar time in our history – the McCarthy Era, also called the Red Scare – where there was a pervasive fear that communists were embedding our government, the entertainment industry and our schools."

*-Former BHUSD parent
Gay Abrams*

"The language of this standards-based instruction policy does not actually reflect standards-based instruction, which I know well," said Hannah Croft, a 7th grade English teacher at Beverly Vista Middle School. "Instead, this proposed change demands teachers limit the scope of their instruction, and by extension, limit students' skills and ability to learn. The meticulously chosen and intentionally vague language of this proposed instructional change does not have student success at its heart."

The initial version of the policy encouraged teachers to report colleagues for potential violations – which prompted resident and former BHUSD parent Gay Abrams to compare it to an earlier chapter in American politics.

"This language and policy parallel a similar time in our history – the McCarthy Era, also called the Red Scare – where there was a pervasive fear that communists were embedding our government, the entertainment industry and our schools," Abrams said. "Today we are facing similar fears but instead of the use of 'commies,' it is liberalism, leftists, woke, DEI, BLM, gender, LGBTQ."

Following public comment, the board spent more than two hours debating the policy.

"There are two documented problems that we have spoken about in our district ... We have unacceptably low test scores and achievement, and we have declining enrollment," Stern said. "This proposed policy, as it stands now, would do nothing for those two documented problems. In fact, they may adversely impact those two problems."

Sabag – who introduced the policy – defended it by stating that it protects students from bias and political agendas.

"For far too long, our classrooms have sometimes drifted from the core of what students come to school to do – to learn, to grow and to master academic content that will serve them for a lifetime," Sabag said. "This policy restores and protects the focus. It ensures that when our students walk into a math class they're learning math. When they walk into a science class they're engaged in inquiry, experimentation and analysis. When they sit down in English, they're not hearing opinion, they're learning how to read critically, write [clearly] and think independently."

At the request of Marcus and Stern, aspects of the policy's language were changed. For example, the phrase "during instructional time" was added to the rule that teachers must refrain from promoting political causes. Additionally, the board agreed to remove the line "staff members with firsthand knowledge of potential violations are encouraged to report concerns promptly."

Following the revisions, the board unanimously approved the policy.

"I feel like [the policy] is significantly less punitive and more speaks to and respects our educators," Stern said.

Katherine Warren, president of the Beverly Hills Education Association and a special education teacher at Beverly Vista Middle School, expressed support for the teachers who had concerns about the policy, which she said could "restrict or undermine effective teaching."

"BHEA is pleased that the final version of the policy removed language requiring staff to report on one another," Warren said. "However, we are disappointed that once again the school board limited community engagement by manipulating board procedures. This marks the fourth instance in which the board has moved to waive the second reading of a board policy, effectively limiting public input."

Warren also said the board's current 20-minute limit for public comment per topic restricts input and suppresses teacher involvement.

At the following board meeting on July 22, community members continued to express concern over the new policy after it was passed.

Judith Chan, a vocal music teacher at Horace Mann Elementary School, said that the policy was problematic, and accused Sabag of making "false allegations" about her to justify its creation.

Chan said during a music class in 2022, she taught a lesson based on the gospel song "We Shall Overcome," to accompany the birthday of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and Black History Month. She added that she showed the class a short cartoon about King and his accomplishments as a civil rights leader.

"After that, a 4th grader asked the question, 'what are civil rights movements?'" Chan said.

She said she was surprised the student did not learn about civil rights in other classes, and asked the class to contribute.

"One kid raised a hand – 'it's like Rosa Parks, she did not want to go to another seat' ... The other kid said, 'it's like Black Lives Matter, with George Floyd.' And then we talked about what is the definition of civil

rights ... and then we moved onto other music activities," Chan said.

Chan said that following the classroom discussion, Sabag complained about Chan during a board meeting – before she was a board member.

Archived video from a Feb. 8, 2022, board meeting shows Sabag's comments, where she said she was "furious" over the classroom discussion.

"She took it upon herself to teach the kids about BLM and racism during her whole class, and she did it to all the kids," Sabag said. "My children love music, they love Mrs. Chan, and they did not appreciate listening to BLM during music."

Sabag also took issue with the fact that Chan supported masking during the COVID-19 pandemic, stating that Chan wanted to "suffocate" children.

Chan said that Sabag filed a complaint with the school district about the discussion about civil rights, which prompted the HR department to suggest a meeting between Chan and Sabag.

"[Sabag] wouldn't talk to me about it. She wouldn't have any meeting with me about it," Chan said. "The district investigated and they found that all the claims she had against me were unsubstantiated."

Chan said although she was cleared of any wrongdoing, the incident had a chilling effect on her teaching, and the new policy would further punish teachers in similar situations.

"Without this policy, I have already self-censored myself for the last three years," Chan said. "I stopped teaching the song. I stopped talking about Dr. Martin Luther King in my music class."

Following Chan's comments, Sabag defended the policy – emphasizing that it was approved unanimously.

"That policy was not put into place because of Mrs. Judith Chan, not at all," Sabag said. "Although I'm not happy with what happened two and a half years ago, but it has nothing to do specifically with that."

Although Sabag denied that the policy had anything to do with the incident in Chan's classroom, she made several comments in discussions leading up to the policy's approval about a music instructor "teaching politics" to elementary school students – a perceived example as to why the policy should be approved.

"In this circumstance, it was a music teacher that had a film. She wasn't teaching music to the whole elementary students," Sabag said at a June 24 board meeting. "And she was only teaching about protesting. That's all she was teaching."



photo by Getty, courtesy of Cedars-Sinai

An initiative led by Dr. Jacklyn Ma at Cedars-Sinai cut carbon emissions from anesthesia by 99%.

Cedars-Sinai slashes carbon emissions from anesthesia

As someone who dedicates her life to helping others heal, Cedars-Sinai anesthesiologist Dr. Jacklyn Ma felt torn knowing the gases she used to make surgery painless for patients were actually hurting the environment.

"It was disturbing to me and hard to reconcile that here I am as a health care provider preserving human health, and yet I create a ton of pollution," Ma said.

Climate change and air pollution are the biggest threats to human health, according to the World Health Organization, and cause – or worsen – a range of health threats, including infectious diseases spread by mosquitoes, ticks or fleas, respiratory illnesses and heat exhaustion.

According to a study published in Health Affairs, the health care industry may be responsible for up to 8% of greenhouse gas emissions, and anesthetic gases account for more than half of the emissions generated during surgery. The gases are especially harmful because they are released directly into the atmosphere. Using the anesthetic gas desflurane for one hour, for example, produces the same carbon emissions as driving a gasoline-powered car for 190 miles.

Ma launched a Cedars-Sinai Medical Center initiative in 2021 to address anesthesiology's role in the problem. After four years, she and her colleagues have significantly reduced the output of desflurane as well as nitrous oxide, while still maintaining the highest quality of care and safety for patients.

In 2021, Ma and anesthesiologist Dr. Michael Kissen started spreading the word with colleagues about anesthesiology's

role in climate change, and the environmental benefits of switching to alternative gases.

"Anesthesia is sometimes more of an art than a science," Kissen said. "Every anesthesiologist has their routine and their medications that they lean on, but we wanted to make our colleagues aware of all the risk profiles of these gases beyond what we learned in an anesthesia textbook."

Anesthesiologists used to rely on desflurane to provide general anesthesia for patients before surgery, but it has 20 times the carbon impact of its alternative, sevoflurane.

Under Ma's guidance, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and other Cedars-Sinai patient care centers moved away from desflurane, and in 2023, the hospital officially removed the gas from its approved list of drugs.

With the changes, Cedars-Sinai went from using 1,200 bottles of desflurane in 2021 to fewer than 12 in 2024 – achieving a 99% reduction. Ma said the shift is equivalent to taking 250 cars off the road.

The initiative also targeted nitrous oxide – commonly known as laughing gas – which is frequently used by pediatric and obstetric anesthesiologists and for dental procedures. Experts have found that much of the gas is lost before reaching the patient, posing a hazard. Nitrous oxide also lingers in the atmosphere for 100 years.

By gradually phasing out nitrous oxide, Cedars-Sinai reduced emissions from 1,111 metric tons of carbon dioxide in 2021 to 234 in 2024. For information, visit cedars-sinai.org.

LADWP recognized for veteran hiring policies

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power recently received the 2025 Veterans Employer of the Year Award from the California Employer Advisory Council.

The CEAC is a statewide non-profit that provides information and resources to employers on regulations, policies and pending legislation that impact workforce development issues. LADWP was recognized in the Government/Public Sector category for exemplary hiring, training, promotion and retention of U.S. military veterans.

"We are extremely honored to receive this award from the CEAC,"

LADWP CEO and Chief Engineer Janisse Quiñones said. "LADWP is dedicated to hiring qualified veterans for their skills and dedication. Our numerous recruitment initiatives are part of our broader efforts to expand outreach and raise awareness about career opportunities to ensure that servicemembers have access to rewarding civilian careers and resources here at the department."

The CEAC has worked with the California Employment Development Department since 1980 to promote business friendly regulations, policies and proce-

dures. It serves as a link between employers, employee advisory councils and the EDD at the local and state level.

LADWP actively recruits veterans for their unique expertise and invaluable skills. Military training fosters discipline, leadership and a robust work ethic that can seamlessly transfer to roles at LADWP. The utility supports veterans and all employees with benefits such as 100% tuition reimbursement and flexible work schedules. LADWP also provides on-the-job training to help employees build new skills.

For information, visit ladwp.com.

Larchmont 2030 initiative gains support

From page 1

and has been endorsed by the Larchmont Boulevard Association, Larchmont Village Business Improvement District and the Larchmont United Neighborhood Association. Larchmont 2030 was created by Sam Uretsky, of Reboot Larchmont and the Larchmont United Neighborhood Association, and Lindsay Sturman, co-founder of the Livable Communities Initiative, as a guide to boost economic vitality in the upper Larchmont area while preserving the neighborhood's character and charm. The stretch of Larchmont Boulevard is primarily composed of one- and two-story buildings, but developers are attempting to build two much larger buildings on the street that the community does not support, Uretsky said. The initiative is going through the public vetting process and will later be forwarded to the city for consideration.

If adopted, Larchmont 2030 would serve as a voluntary guide for development in the area. Developers would not be required to follow it, but the initiative includes pre-approved project designs and floor-plan examples that incentivize them to adhere to the plan when building. Uretsky said it is a win-win because developers can eliminate the red tape of the permitting process and save money, and the building designs create housing and retail space that are in character with the neighborhood.

"As projects began to appear on upper Larchmont that were frankly inappropriate in scale and injurious to neighbors in many ways, we were

looking for a solution on how to provide what we wanted in neighborhood-scale development, sensible housing with an affordable component," Uretsky said. "We were looking for solutions for affordable home ownership, because what we'd like to do for Larchmont is bring in new stakeholders. We want people to move to Larchmont who are committed to Larchmont. We're hoping to provide a framework using standard plans."

Uretsky said the initiative was created with the understanding that the city is growing and more housing is sorely needed. The Larchmont 2030 initiative encourages residential over retail buildings of up to five stories. Uretsky said the plan would encourage economic growth and potentially create a vibrant business community similar to the stretch of Larchmont Boulevard south of Beverly Boulevard.

"Larchmont 2030 is the reimagining of upper Larchmont using standard plans to allow high quality affordable housing with family sized units through ownership, thoughtful at-neighborhood scale ground floor retail opportunities for small businesses, innovative parking solutions, enhanced mobility options and a streetscape able to be easily activated for community events," he added. "The goal is an enhanced community with a new approach to inclusionary home ownership and preserving the wonderful character of Larchmont. That's it in a nutshell."

Uretsky said he has discussed the Larchmont 2030 initiative with Los

Angeles City Councilman Hugo Soto-Martinez, 13th District, and his staff, and the councilman has been preliminarily supportive. The Los Angeles City Council is currently on summer recess and Soto-Martinez's spokesman said the councilman was not available for comment. In addition to business associations in Larchmont Village, some neighbors said they are thrilled about the plan.

"I am just over the moon about it," said David Grant, a 15-year resident of Gower Street, located a block east of Larchmont Boulevard. "There are so many great things to say about it. I think the most important thing to know is that since I've been there on Gower, there have been these endless turf wars between developers and the community, and they are at complete odds with each other. There are so many different agendas, but mostly the problem is that the developers are typically trying to build buildings that maximize the number of units without really any regard for the livable nature of the units or the community at large. It's all profit driven and because of that, there's been no real progress. When I saw this proposal I thought, 'Oh, wow.' I mean, this is the miracle compromise in our day and age."

Uretsky said the initiative could serve as a model for responsible development in neighborhoods throughout Los Angeles. The motion next goes before the full GWNC Board on Wednesday, Aug. 13 at 6:30 p.m., via Zoom. For information on GWNC board meetings, visit greaterwilshire.org.



photo by Jon Viscott

The business tax credit seeks to address commercial vacancies.

WeHo expands tax credits for commercial lease renewals

The city of West Hollywood expanded its Business Tax Credit Program for Commercial Lease Renewals with a modification to the city's municipal code in response to concerns about the impact of commercial vacancies and challenges faced by small and mid-sized businesses. Formerly, this program was only applicable to large businesses.

Effective July 1, eligible businesses that extend an existing commercial lease by five or more years may now receive a business tax credit equal to the amount of business license taxes paid in the previous year. This expanded initiative is designed to help promote economic stability in West Hollywood, to further support the city's vibrant local businesses and to encourage long-term business retention within the community.

To meet eligibility guidelines, qualifying commercial lease renewals must be signed on or after July 1. Additionally, eligible businesses must renew or extend a commercial lease for five or more years, must be current in its business license tax payments and must meet compliance with

all city regulations and ordinance requirements. Applicants will need a fully executed lease agreement (or a signed affidavit confirming a five-year renewal), plus confirmation that city business license taxes have no outstanding debt owed. The application must be made within 60 days after the business enters into a lease renewal. The applicant is eligible for a credit once every five years per property and business tax credit only applies to the first year of each qualifying five-year renewal or extension. Home-based businesses, co-working or shared spaces and businesses not operating in traditional commercial settings are excluded from eligibility.

To apply, visit the city of West Hollywood's Revenue Management Division website area and download an application form in the Business Lease Renewal Credit section: weho.org/city-government/city-departments/finance-and-technology-services/revenue-management/business-tax. For questions about the program, email leasere renewalcredit@weho.org.

WeHo seeks community input on safety measures

From page 1

arrest, Shanna Meade, a Florida resident who was visiting West Hollywood and witnessed the hit-and-run, said she followed Adams after the collision and reported his license plate to deputies. Meade was then told by sheriff's deputies to stop following the suspect. Los Angeles County District Attorney Nathan Hochman has yet to announce charges related to the collision and did not respond to a request for comment.

Damian Kevitt, executive director of Streets Are For Everyone, a grassroots organization advocating for bicyclist safety, said there has been a "shocking" increase in the amount of recent traffic violence in West Hollywood. People often flee the scene of hit-and-runs because drivers are penalized less for a hit-and-run than they are for driving under the influence, Kevitt said. He added that it is difficult to increase penalties for hit-and-runs because it is a politically unpopular position.

"That is a huge factor and that is where the law needs to catch up," he said.

Kevitt added that reducing traffic congestion by adding surface area on streets has not been successful in Los Angeles and that using alternative means of transportation is a more effective way of reducing vehicle congestion.

Another hit-and-run occurred in West Hollywood blocks away from the rally on July 18 at the intersection of Santa Monica Boulevard and Formosa Avenue. William Yates, 33, was arrested after colliding with a motorcycle and fleeing. The victim was hospitalized, and his condition was not disclosed.

A petition created in the wake of Ackerman's death calls for City Council members to install a red light camera at the intersection of Fountain Avenue and Gardner Street. It has received more than 200 signatures as of July 23.

Rep. Laura Friedman (D-Glendale), who authored a law passed in 2023 that helps California cities implement speed cameras, said the problem of traffic violence needs to be addressed holistically.

"We need to be thinking about this from every angle, from the way we design vehicles, to what safety features are in vehicles, to employing technology like speed cameras across the state in a thoughtful way, to driver's education," she said.

Friedman also commended West Hollywood and other cities for implementing safer traffic measures, calling the increase in fatal collisions a "public health crisis."

However, some local officials remain opposed to the redesign of Fountain Avenue, including Vice Mayor John Heilman and Meister, who previously voted against a grant that would fund bike lanes on the street. Heilman said that bike lanes on Fountain Avenue would significantly increase congestion and slow emergency vehicles, and instead advocated for stricter traffic safety measures. Meister also said the current Fountain Avenue streetscape plan does address the need for residential parking and ADA-compliant sidewalks on the street.

West Hollywood will host a Fountain Avenue Streetscape Project community meeting on Aug. 19 from 6-8 p.m. at the Plummer Park Community Center, where residents can view updated streetscape plans and share their views on the street's conditions.



photo by Peter Bonilla

Community members gathered at the site of the hit-and-run collision, where a ghost bike memorial was placed for Blake Ackerman.

BHPOA sends cease and desist letter

From page 1

agencies," the letter read.

The letter was signed by Stuart D. Adams, of Adams Legal Group, which represents the BHPOA.

In an interview, Bond reiterated the claims made in the letter that Stainbrook interfered with a potential employment opportunity at BHUSD by making false allegations about him to Cherniss.

"As the POA president, I'm here to represent the membership," Bond said. "I have no personal agenda. I've said from the beginning ... I'm here for the membership and that's who I will fight for."

Deputy City Manager Keith Sterling responded to the allegations on behalf of Stainbrook and the city.

"The city has received the letter from [Adams Legal Group] and will review. Some of the items that the POA has raised through their vote of no confidence have been part of the negotiations between the city and the POA. Others address the relationship between Chief Stainbrook and association members," Sterling said. "Chief Stainbrook and the City Manager

have developed a plan to address the concerns raised by the POA Board not specific to the negotiations. These include improving communication within the department and enhancing hiring efforts. The chief has been meeting with individual police officers to keep lines of communication open and solicit feedback and will be presenting additional recruitment strategies to the City Council in the coming weeks. As the city remains in active negotiations with the POA, the remaining items will be addressed through that process."

Answers From Page 27



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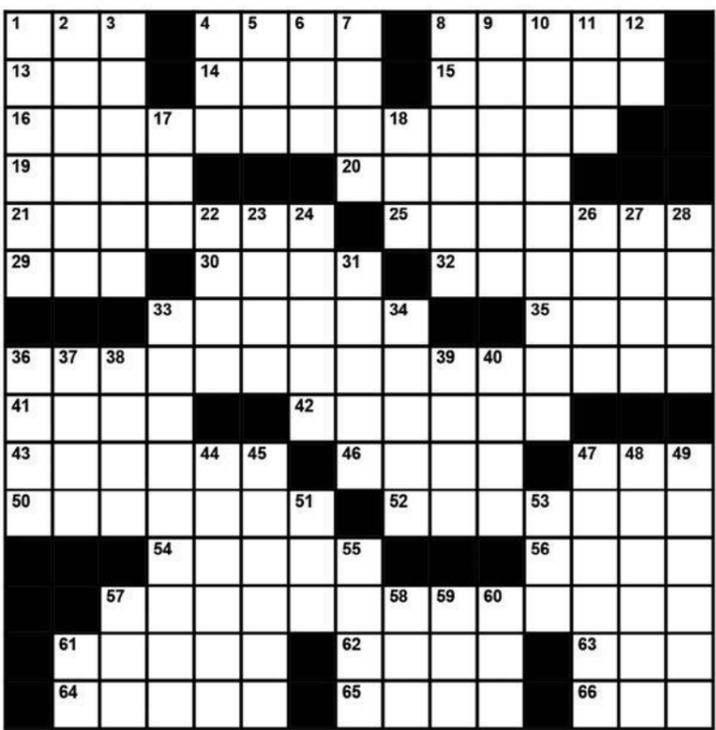
Crossword Puzzle by Myles Mellor

Across

- Tide action
- Alien space crafts
- Battery type
- Obey, with "the line"
- Zilch
- Pleasant way to walk
- Small restaurant which sometimes has really good food
- Pancake maker
- African beast
- Like an ice-cream holder
- It may be trimmed in a haircut
- Soak thoroughly
- Beauty products provider
- Fought
- Dark suit
- On __ with
- Japanese kind of restaurant
- Needle case
- David, e.g.
- Musical composition types
- Lee of Marvel Comics
- Detective Spade
- Feeler
- Basis
- Wine region
- Picnic hamperer
- They provide an assortment of foods
- Two-time U.S. Open winner Fraser
- It is sold by the dozen, often
- Govt. issuance
- Time off
- Bridge feat
- Coll., e.g.
- Alda or Ladd
- ___ slipper (orchid type)
- Resembling thick cords
- 440-yard shape, often
- Used to be
- "The Second Coming" poet
- Parker, part of the time
- Glide
- Trillion, prefix
- Top school in the UK
- Fourth-down option
- "Take ___ a sign"
- Stars
- Shelved for now
- Dormitory annoyance
- Boxers' warnings
- Biting
- Good guy
- "The Ice Storm" director Lee
- Renaissance, for one
- Headset, to hams
- Swell
- Roman sun god
- Big inits. in camping
- Original manufacturer's item
- Close to, for short

Down

- Personal codes of conduct
- Bawl
- Appertain
- Action film staple
- Quagmire
- Crumb
- Area in Manhattan
- 'Fuhgeddaboutit!'
- All worked up
- Set, in a way
- To be under the weather
- No or Pepper
- Prefix with dermis
- Get by
- Nightclub of song



answers on page 26



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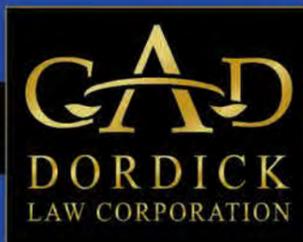
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