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THE WEATHER, BEVERLY HILLS

Friday	71° 49°
Saturday	60° 48°
Sunday	62° 48°
Monday	63° 46°
Tuesday	60° 45°
Wednesday	62° 47°
Thursday	64° 48°

Beverly Hills Elementary Schools Will Reopen Next Week

BY ANA FIGUEROA



In-person learning for elementary grades is set to recommence March 8. Photo by Bianca Heyward

Elementary school classrooms in Beverly Hills will reopen for in-person learning next week. Students in grade levels TK-2 will return on March 8; grades 3-5 will return March 9.

"We are thrilled to be moving forward as a team together with our teachers, staff, students, and parents to reopen our

schools," Beverly Hills Unified School District Superintendent Dr. Michael Bregy told the Courier.

(Schools Reopen continues on page 10)

City Council Considers Rent Subsidy

BY SAMUEL BRASLOW

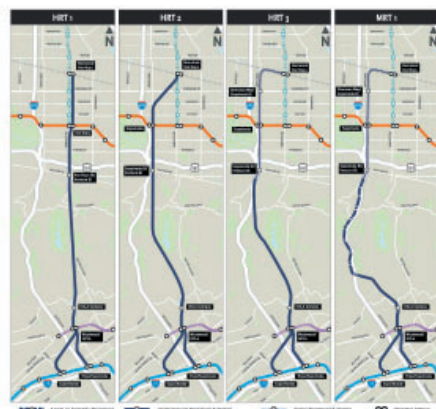
The Beverly Hills City Council grappled with the impact of COVID-19 on the city's most vulnerable at its March 2 meetings. At the Study Session, the Council heard updates on the city's rent relief program targeted at those affected by the pandemic. The Council voted to approve a Neighborhood Slow Streets Program, which would allow residential blocks to restrict their roadways to local traffic only. Finally, the Council voted at the Regular Session to overhaul the city's process of soliciting and securing contracts for goods and services.

In response to the mounting pressure on renters by the economic toll of COVID-19, the City Council approved the creation of a rent subsidy program at its Sept. 15 Regular Meeting. Though initially vested with \$715,000, the Council expanded the program to \$1.1 million in December. The program applied to tenants living on multi-family properties that fall under the Rent Stabilization Ordinance (RSO), prioritizing seniors and households with children enrolled in Beverly Hills Unified School District. The program offered eligible residents up to \$1,000 for three months to make up the remaining balance of unpaid rent. The funds went directly to the landlord under the condition that the landlord grant the tenant a year to repay back rent.

(Rent Subsidy continues on page 15)

Neighborhoods Frustrated as Metro Moves Closer to Sepulveda Transit

BY SAMUEL BRASLOW



Metro's original four proposals for transit lines through the Sepulveda Corridor.

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) Board of Directors took a step closer to realizing the long-discussed Sepulveda Transit Corridor

Project, a two-phase plan to connect the San Fernando Valley, the Westside, and Los Angeles International Airport (LAX). The first phase will link the Valley and the Westside, with later plans to extend the line to LAX. On Feb. 25, the Board received and filed recommendations from Metro staff to explore two private proposals, including a monorail line running along the center of the 405 freeway and a heavy rail line running beneath Sepulveda before emerging above-ground in the Valley.

The venture's genesis dates back to Measure M, the 2016 one-cent sales tax increase that provides funding for transportation infrastructure in the county.

(Metro continues on page 13)

Shooting at Il Pastaio

BY SAMUEL BRASLOW



Il Pastaio became a crime scene following a robbery and shooting on March 4

A woman was shot during a robbery at iconic Beverly Hills restaurant Il Pastaio around 2 p.m. on March 4. Three suspects ran from the scene before Beverly Hills Police Department (BHPD) officers arrived. The department is actively investigating the incident, but has not apprehended any suspects by press time.

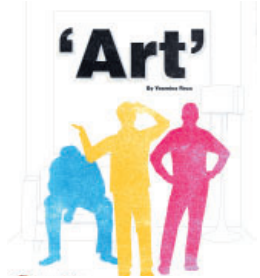
(Shooting continues on page 9)

Courier Calendar



NOW - MARCH 7
GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE: "INSIDE THE BOX"

"Inside the Box" takes participants into the exhilarating world of games with New York Times crossword constructor David Kwong. Twenty-four guests will have a front-row seat to an entirely interactive show of puzzles, while Kwong regales them with stories of the most extraordinary puzzle-makers throughout history. Written and performed by David Kwong.
<https://www.geffenplayhouse.org/shows/inside-the-box/>



NOW - MARCH 7
INTERNATIONAL CITY THEATRE: "ART" YASMINA REZA'S PLAY

International City Theatre opens its 36th season with a virtual presentation of "Art," a hilarious look at the bonds of friendship viewed through the prism of modern art. Yasmina Reza's multiple award-winning play, translated from the French by playwright/screenwriter Christopher Hampton, will remain available on demand through March 7.
www.InternationalCityTheatre.org



MARCH 5
AMERICAN YOUTH SYMPHONY AND A PLACE CALLED HOME: "FAMILY FILM FRIDAYS" VIRTUAL MUSIC AND MOVIE

The American Youth Symphony and A Place Called Home have joined forces to bring classical music to South Central families and the local community. "Family Film Fridays" feature interactive pre-show concerts, a live raffle, and a conducting lesson led by Jessica Bejarano of the San Francisco Philharmonic. Use the Zoom Link: tinyurl.com/apchmusicfff and the Passcode: APCHFFF for the event.
<https://www.aysymphony.org/apch-concert/>



MARCH 5
NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF LOS ANGELES - "FIRST FRIDAYS CONNECTED: L.A. AT THE INTERSECTIONS" - "HOME X HABITATS"
 6 - 8 p.m.

The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County presents "First Fridays Connected: L.A. at the Intersections." On March 5, KCRW DJ Anthony Valadez prepares a special cocktail followed by a live stream discussion around Home x Habitats, moderated by neuroscientist and science communicator Dr. Yewande Pearse. Neil Frances and the duo of Marc Gilfry and Jordan Feller will perform.
<https://nhm.org/first-fridays>

MARCH 6
LOS ANGELES COUNTY MUSEUM OF ART - "ART MOVES: NOT I THROWING VOICES (1500 BCE-2020 CE) YOGA"
 10 - 11 a.m.

Participate in a virtual yoga session inspired by Los Angeles County Museum of Art exhibition "Not I: Throwing Voices (1500 BCE - 2020 CE)." Artist Teresa Flores and certified yoga instructor and reporter Rebecca Plevin lead the session. Set up at home with a yoga mat for one or with the household. RSVP is required; there is limited capacity.
<https://www.lacma.org/event/art-moves-not-i-throwing-voices-1500-bce-2020-ce-yoga>



MARCH 6
THE BILLY HARRIS DINNER SERIES: JESSE TYLER FERGUSON AND JULIE TANOUS COOKBOOK RELEASE PARTY AND COOK ALONG
 5 - 6:30 p.m.

Join Jesse Tyler Ferguson and Julie Tanous for their cookbook launch party. Prepare tacos and biscochitos from their upcoming book, "Food Between Friends." The evening also includes a performance from Grammy winner Lisa Loeb. Participants will receive recipes, instructions, a Zoom link and a shopping list. \$25 from each ticket will benefit No Kid Hungry.
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/jesse-tyler-ferguson-julie-tanous-cookbook-release-party-tickets-140640388187>

MARCH 6
CENTER FOR THE ART OF PERFORMANCE UCLA - ISRAEL GALVÁN: "MAESTRO DE BARRA"
 7 p.m.

UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance (CAP UCLA) presents Israel Galván in "Maestro de Barra" on March 6 through CAP UCLA Online. Galván is featured in a Netflix docuseries about dance called "Move." In "Maestro de Barra" Galván pushes boundaries with his solo work and collaboration with flamenco masters Enrique Morente and Mauel Soler, contemporary choreographer Akram Kahn and jazz great Pat Metheny.
<https://cap.ucla.edu/calendar/details/israel-galvan>

MARCH 6
CALTECH - HERBERT SIGUENZA'S "A WEEKEND WITH PABLO PICASSO" FILM

CaltechLive! presents the film adaptation of Herbert Siguenza's hit show "A Weekend with Pablo Picasso." On opening weekend, CaltechLive! hosts two free live talk-backs with Siguenza on March 6 at 7:30 p.m. and March 7 at 4 p.m. Siguenza creates a joyful portrait of the maestro as he dances, sculpts, shares secrets, clowns, draws, and impersonates a matador while he embodies the father of modern art.
<https://events.caltech.edu/series/caltechlive/picasso>

MARCH 6, 7, 11
THE BRAID: "FAMILY MATTERS"

The Braid presents "Family Matters," a new salon show opening on March 6 and available to audiences across the globe, live on Zoom. This is a story of a young woman who is shocked to learn she was adopted as she was cleaning up her parents' papers after they died. "Family Matters" will be performed live on Zoom on March 6 at 8 p.m., March 7 at 11 a.m., and March 11 at 7:30 p.m.
<https://the-braid.org>



MARCH 7
THE CRITICS CHOICE ASSOCIATION: CRITICS CHOICE AWARDS
 7 - 10 p.m.

The 26th annual Critics Choice Awards will take place in a hybrid in person/virtual format. Actress and activist Zendaya will receive the fifth annual SeeHer Award in the ceremony hosted by Taye Diggs. The show will continue its combined film and television awards format, honoring the finest in both cinematic and televised/streaming achievement.
<http://www.criticschoice.com/>

MARCH 10
WRITERS BLOC AND SKIRBALL CULTURAL CENTER: NOBEL LAUREATE KAZUO ISHIGURO WITH "WESTWORLD'S" LISA JOY
 12 p.m.

Writers Bloc and Skirball Cultural Center present Nobel Laureate Kazuo Ishiguro with "Westworld's" Lisa Joy in partnership with Skylight Books and Tattered Cover Bookstore. Ishiguro's new novel, "Klara and the Sun," introduces Klara, an artificial object who watches the world from her perch in a shop. Book purchase is required for the link to the livestream.
<https://writersblocpresents.com/main/kazuo-ishiguro-2/>

MARCH 10
CALTECH WATSON LECTURE: "PERSEVERANCE ON MARS"
 5 - 6 p.m.

Caltech Watson Lecture presents "Perseverance on Mars" with Kenneth A. Farley, W. M. Keck Foundation Professor of Geochemistry, Division of Geological and Planetary Sciences, Caltech. After eight years of development at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, the Perseverance rover was successfully launched on its journey to Mars on July 30, 2020. Farley will describe how the rover will investigate rocks billions of years old, seeking evidence of possible Martian life.
https://caltech.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_uJoVcflSGKTUQvx7fDdRQ



MARCH 10
L.A. THEATRE WORKS: "BUMP"

L.A. Theatre Works is releasing a state-of-the-art audio theater recording of "Bump," a new comedy by Chiara Atik. Based on the true story of Jorge Odón and the birthing device he invented in his garage to help his daughter.
<https://latw.org/digital-season>

MARCH 11
PASADENA PLAYHOUSE AND VROMAN'S BOOKSTORE - "ANOTHER DAY'S BEGUN: EXPLORING OUR TOWN"
 6:30 p.m.

Pasadena Playhouse and Vroman's Bookstore present the live streaming of "Another Day's Begun: Exploring Our Town" on Playhouse Live on March 11 and available on demand beginning March 12. The event celebrates "Our Town," the quintessential American play with performances from previous cast members and a conversation with Jane Kaczmarek, who played the Stage Manager in the 2017 Pasadena Playhouse/Deaf West production.
<https://playhouselive.org/>



BEVERLY HILLS CREATIVE OFFICES

New Offices Designed to Enhance the Beverly Hills Community by:

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Transforming the eastern gateway of the City with architecturally significant design which will increase the value of neighboring commercial and residential property.

Creating innovative, boutique-sized individual office buildings with flexible spaces – unlike anything offered in the LA region – strengthening Beverly Hills' competitive edge.

Complementing the City's Entertainment District with new tenants who will support existing local businesses.

Valuable Public Benefit

Beverly Hills Land Company proposes to convey ownership of more than 2 ½ acres of land to the City which includes the triangle median on Santa Monica Boulevard at Doheny Drive, along with Lot 13.

The City will be able to use this land at its discretion for any number of desirable public uses, including a beautiful park with an iconic ceremonial gateway to the east. An ongoing DTSC process will result in the land being cleaned up to applicable regulatory standards at no cost to the City.



Farmers Market will remain open! Both directions of traffic on Civic Center Drive will remain open during construction!
 Learn More at BHCreativeOffices.com

Metro Announces Lane Reductions

BY BIANCA HEYWARD



Tunnel Boring Machine in Beverly Hills Photo courtesy of Metro

On March 2, the Beverly Hills City Council held a Regular Meeting during which it approved a request by the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) to implement additional lane reductions along Wilshire Blvd and side street closures. The request was approved to facilitate the construction of multiple underground appendage structures, such as emergency exits, utility rooms, ventilation shafts and more for Section 1 (La Cienega Station) of the Metro D Line, formerly known as the Purple Line Extension subway project. Beginning this month through approximately the third quarter of 2023, Wilshire Boulevard between La Cienega Boulevard and San Vicente Boulevard will be reduced to two lanes in each direction, along with temporary full and partial closures of N. Gale Drive at Wilshire Boulevard.

The lane reductions would be in place for 20 months, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

“It would include two phases within this phase one, phase 1A and phase 1B, which would require a full closure of North Gale for approximately four months out of those 20 months,” Rob Welch, project manager for the city, said during the meeting. “Followed by a directional closure, so a southbound closure of North Gale for seven months out of those 20 months. It would also include sidewalk closures.”

After phase one is complete, the construction zone will be shifted to the south side of Wilshire between S. Gale and La Cienega. Fencing and K-rails will be installed during this time, resulting in Wilshire being reduced to two lanes in both the east and westbound directions and periodic daily closures of Gale Drive, south of Wilshire. Metro’s current schedule estimates Phase 1 work on the north side of Wilshire from March 2021 through Oct. 2022, and Phase 2 work on the south side of Wilshire from Nov. 2022 to July 2023. The work activities involved during construction include saw cutting, sidewalk and pavement removal, utility maintenance, excavation, hauling, shoring installation, appendage structure installation, backfill, removal of shoring and surface restoration. The work will take place between the

hours of 7 a.m. and 8 p.m. seven days a week.

Prior to the meeting, city staff and Metro staff discussed conditions of the permit that would mitigate impacts on the community. After approving additional construction, Metro plans to incorporate the following into their work plan: enhanced landscape improvements for the future median island at San Vicente and Wilshire; traffic video detection at the intersection of Wilshire and Gale; lengthening of street improvement limits along Wilshire from the west station box limit (La Cienega) to Stanley Drive, and from the east station box limit (Tower Drive) to the city right-of-way (ROW) limit at San Vicente; replacement of sewer laterals within the station box area to the ROW limit; Traffic Control Officers (TCOs) to be deployed as determined by the Beverly Hills Police Department to assist the free flow of traffic; and the installation of public information graphics and wayfinding signs around the k-rail enclosures and sidewalk barriers and signed detour routes to promote local businesses impacted by the construction and orient pedestrians to businesses and parking areas.

“I’ll just add that the enhancements that are negotiated are above and beyond what would have been necessary,” Mayor Lester Friedman said. “Had there not been this negotiation, the

enhanced landscape at the median is going to be a beautiful gateway as opposed to just a replacement of the concrete and what was there before.”

Friedman added: “These were negotiated by staff and are significant to us in granting the appendage work, so we were supportive of it.”

The news of additional construction came shortly after Metro announced a major milestone. On March 1, Metro reported that one of its boring machines broke through to the Wilshire/La Cienega subway station site in Beverly Hills. Metro’s boring machine, named Elsie, is 400 feet long and weighs 1,000 tons. It began working west at the Wilshire/Fairfax station on May 29 of 2020 and broke through to the Wilshire/La Cienega station last Thursday.

“Metro has reached yet another milestone as it works to bring fast, frequent, and reliable subway service to the Westside,” said Mayor Eric Garcetti, who also serves as the Metro board chair.

“Tunneling to Wilshire/La Cienega is a big step toward completing the first section to the Miracle Mile and Beverly Hills and connecting Angelenos to the many destinations in both of those communities,” he said. ●

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Planning Commission Renews Permits for 9111 Wilshire

BY SAMUEL BRASLOW

The Beverly Hills Planning Commission unanimously approved an extension of the Conditional Use Permit and Historic Incentive Permit for a planned hotel development at 9111 Wilshire Boulevard. The project will transform the historic structure into a boutique hotel just as the area becomes more accessible via the Metro D Line (formerly known as the Purple Line). Although the project first received approval back in January 2020, construction never began, necessitating the extension.

“Adaptive reuse is really something that we all strive to do when we’re looking at these...historically significant buildings,” said Commissioner Myra Demeter at the Feb. 25 hearing.

The cubic structure at 9111 Wilshire, located just west of Doheny Drive and east of the Golden Triangle, was built in stages over the decades. The one-story tower base and mezzanine were constructed in 1958 as the main branch for Gibraltar Savings and Loan. This was followed a year later with the cantilevered office tower atop the base, or Banking Hall. Both were designed by the architectural firm of William Pereira and Charles Luckman, both of whom Beverly Hills includes on its List of Master Architects. Ten years later, in 1968, Beverly Hills National Bank built a one-story structure designed by Beverly Hills Master Architect Maxwell Starkman.

In 1985, Beverly Hills National Bank shut its doors for good. Gibraltar Savings and Loan closed in 1989. The bank that bought Gibraltar, Security Pacific Corporation, continued to operate out of 9111 Wilshire for a number of years. As for National Bank, actor Harry Lewis and his wife Marilyn bought up its former headquarters and transformed it into the restaurant Kate Mantilini, named after an L.A. boxing promoter from the ‘40s and ‘50s. The idiosyncratic architectural firm Morphosis redesigned the bank into a postmodern, refined take on the American diner—a long counter with a view of the kitchen, intimate booths recessed into the interior facade, simultaneously cloistered and wide open. The restaurant became a Beverly Hills institution until rising rent pushed it out in 2014. The former Gibraltar Savings branch and shuttered Kate Mantilini restaurant have sat vacant since then.

In 2016, the Planning Commission granted historical status to 9111 Wilshire. That same year, the property was acquired by Charles Company, owned by developers Mark and Arman Gabay, and later transferred to Oakshire, LLC (Oakshire). The latter entity applied to the Planning Commission in 2019 to restore and revitalize 9111 Wilshire.

Oakshire proposal sought to turn the former banking and office space into a 154-room hotel boutique hotel and bring a restaurant back to the former Kate Mantilini location. The mezzanine within the Gibraltar

Banking Hall would say goodbye to bank tellers and hello to masseuse tables with the introduction of a spa and fitness area. On the third floor, the “Gibraltar Square Hotel and Restaurant” would have a 2,300 square foot café and restaurant. Right outside, on the rooftop of the Banking Hall, Oakshire would place a pool deck with cabanas.

The application also requested approval of a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for modified vehicle loading spaces and use of an off-site parking garage. Oakshire also sought approval of a Historic Incentive Permit (HIP) to allow use of a hotel that directly abuts a residential zone.

The Planning Commission approved the application in January 2020, but work has yet to commence. In order to prevent the permits from expiring, Oakshire returned to the Planning Commission for an extension on Feb. 25.

A representative for Oakshire explained to the Planning Commission that COVID-19 had caused the delay in construction. “It goes without saying the COVID pandemic has impacted all sectors of the economy, most notably the hospitality industry. And needless to say, our plans to start construction have been delayed as a result,” said Jack Kurchian, who called in to the meeting and identified himself as a representative. While Oakshire had begun interior demolition and environmental remediation, Kurchian said that they “are looking forward to commencing construction later this year.”

The permit renewal drew only one public comment from Jonah Breslau, speaking on behalf of Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy and Unite Here Local 11, Hospitality Workers Union. Breslau argued that, while the city’s regulatory framework had not changed since the permits were first approved, the economic conditions in the city had as a result of COVID-19. “COVID has reshaped our working lives and made residents and families spend more time at home. This increases the privacy and other challenges of a hotel operating on a site next a residential area,” Breslau said.

In response, Kurchian pointed out that the project would not be completed for at least two years.

Chair Peter Ostroff asked the applicant about whether they had given any thought to utilizing the mixed-use ordinance, which the city passed after the Planning Commission first approved the project. “We have considered that. The challenge is that we believe that for housing, you require outdoor balconies, which require modifications to the exterior of the building, which our landmark designation prohibits.”

(Planning Commission continues on page 15)

Three Beverly Hills Locations Recognized with Golden Shield

BY BIANCA HEYWARD



Nate 'N Al's will receive a Golden Shield plaque from the city. Photo by Bianca Heyward

On March 2, the Beverly Hills City Council unanimously voted to approve a resolution awarding Nate 'N Al's Delicatessen, Gearys Beverly Hills and the site of the former

Gershwin residence with a Golden Shield cultural recognition plaque. **(Golden Shield continues on page 10)**

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U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum to Host Virtual Event

BY ANA FIGUEROA



Emmy Rossum Photo courtesy of United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Actress Emmy Rossum will emcee the “2021 Western Region Virtual Event” to benefit the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. The event

takes place on March 11 at 7 p.m. It brings together members of the Western Region community in support of the efforts of the

D.C.-based Museum. Supporters from 10 western states will share their commitment that the critical lessons of the Holocaust—lessons about the fragility of societies, the nature of hate, and the consequences of indifference—help shape the nation’s way forward.

The annual “What You Do Matters” Western Region Dinner is normally held in Los Angeles and historically attracts up to 1,000 guests. This year, the virtual event will feature the theme of “Survival, Hope and Resilience.” The program will include testimonies from Holocaust survivors and liberators as narrated by celebrities including Morgan Freeman, Jamie Lee Curtis, Camryn Manheim and Tim Matheson. The event will also include special musical performances and important messages about the Museum’s role in these challenging times.

Emcee Emmy Rossum was nominated for a Golden Globe Award for her performance as “Christine” in “The Phantom of the Opera” and starred in nine seasons of Showtime’s critically acclaimed dark comedy series, “Shameless.” She has been an outspoken critic of antisemitism and bigotry in Hollywood.

Taking part in a special segment will be Gerda Weissmann Klein, Holocaust survivor, author, humanitarian, subject of the Academy Award winning documentary “One Survivor Remembers,” and 2011 recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

“One Survivor Remembers” relates Klein’s harrowing story of survival, both before and after the war. Home Box Office and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum co-produced the documentary film, which was awarded both an Emmy and an Academy Award.

The U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum’s “2021 Western Region Virtual Event” comes at a time marked by an alarming rise in antisemitism, racism, and neo-Nazism. The event will feature Derek Black, who was raised in a prominent white supremacist family. Black will speak about experiences that led him to renounce the white nationalist movement and inspired his current work of understanding and teaching the origins of race, racist ideologies and antisemitic beliefs.

In addition, conservatory students from The Ziering-Conlon Initiative for Recovered Voices at the Colburn School in Los Angeles will perform music from the Museum’s Collection, which is the world’s largest archive of Holocaust artifacts and materials.

“These challenging times compel us to present a program that initiates critical thinking, inspires self-reflection and motivates the community to create positive change,” said Marla Abraham, the Museum’s Director of the Western Regional Office. “We are grateful to have Emmy Rossum emcee our virtual event and recognize the significant work that the Western Region Leadership Committee put forth to make this non-traditional program deeply impactful. The event will be a memorable and powerful experience with appearances by Gerda Weissmann Klein, Derek Black and the musical performance by students from the Colburn School.”

The event is open to the public, but advance registration is required. Registrants will receive a link via email to access the program a day before the virtual event. Groups and individuals interested must register by March 10. For more information, contact the Museum’s Western Regional Office at 310-556-3222 or western@ushmm.org.

<https://www.ushmm.org/> ●

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Cedars-Sinai Board of Governors Annual Gala Raises \$1.6 Million

BY ANA FIGUEROA

The Cedars-Sinai Board of Governors Virtual Annual Gala raised \$1.6 million for the Board of Governors Innovation Center. The Feb. 25 event was held in collaboration with fundraising powerhouse, RW Quarantunes. The theme of the gala, “Honoring our Healthcare Heroes,” celebrated the Cedars-Sinai physicians, nurses, and all other essential employees for their tireless contributions to the ongoing battle against COVID-19. From security guards to respiratory therapists, ICU residents to food services staff, all were saluted for their efforts during the pandemic.

The mission of the Board of Governors is to support Cedars-Sinai’s foremost clinical programs, biomedical research, and community outreach by providing financial resources, educational experiences and volunteer opportunities. Cedars-Sinai is home

to some of the most ground-breaking discoveries in medical science. That tradition continues with the new Board of Governors Innovation Center, where scientists and physicians will focus on uncovering the genomic profile of an illness and developing new, personalized treatments and cell therapies targeting those specific disrupted genes or cell functions. Customized therapies will target cancer, brain diseases, heart disease, gastrointestinal and liver diseases, diabetes and obesity, high-risk pregnancy, bone and joint repair, lung diseases, autoimmune diseases and more.

The Board of Governors’ current campaign seeks to raise \$50 million for the Center. The Board chose a philanthropic tour de force in partnering with RW Quarantunes for this year’s gala. The



Richard and Demi Weitz

brainchild of Board of Governors member Richard Weitz (partner, William Morris Endeavor) and his teenaged daughter, Demi, RW Quarantunes has curated invitation-only Zoom fundraising parties featuring world-class talent throughout the pandemic. To date, they have raised over \$16 million for a diverse array of philanthropic causes.

For more information about the Board of Governors Innovation Center at Cedars-Sinai, visit

<https://www.cedars-sinai.org/giving/ways-to-give/board-of-governors/innovation-center.html> ●



Josh Groban



John Legend All photos courtesy of Richard Weitz



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Epic Visionary Women Summit For International Women's Day

BY LISA BLOCH



Condoleezza Rice and Madeleine Albright were featured panelists.

Visionary Women's 2021 Virtual International Women's Day Summit on March 4 was an extraordinarily inspiring, empowering and unforgettable event. Its central message conveyed the importance of women amplifying their voices toward gender equality and problem solving, and in so doing, accelerating the process toward positive, unifying change. Divided into three panels, "Vision for Equality," "Vision for Peace" and "Vision for Unity," some of the world's leading, accomplished and influential women including Nobel Peace laureates, national journalists, philanthropists, CEOs and heads of state weighed in and shared their life experiences. The intimate conversations with these visionary phenoms made it easy to feel and contextualize the tremendous power women generate when they come

together to share, to support, and to mentor.

Visionary Women Co-Founder and Beverly Hills Councilperson Lili Bosse told the Courier, "Today's summit was the quickest two hours I have ever experienced. Watching these iconic trailblazing change-makers gives the sense that truly positive change is possible when open hearted, open minded, bold women come together with a shared vision. I feel energized and ready."

The sentiment shared by Bosse was particularly evident during the panel featuring Madeleine Albright and Condoleezza Rice. Both described their personal experiences, their unifying thoughts, and how they shattered the glass ceiling before, during and after their astonishing journeys as the 64th and 66th Secretaries of State, respectively.

After the event, Visionary Women Co-founder Angela Nazarian said, "I am overwhelmed by the positive response of our community. This proves that our message of unity and finding common ground has struck a chord with our audience."

If you missed this profound and extremely enlightening two hours, do not worry. It will be available for free "on demand" Monday, March 8, International Women's Day! <https://www.visionary-women.com/> ●

THEBlvd Privé Launches at the Beverly Wilshire

BY SAMUEL BRASLOW



THEBlvd Privé ribbon cutting. From left: Julie Wagner, Councilmember Robert Wunderlich, Mayor Lester Friedman, Councilmember Dr. Julian Gold, Peter Humig, and Todd Johnson

The evening of March 3 saw city officials gather for a scene unfamiliar for many months: a ribbon cutting ceremony. In a time marked by store closures and economic uncertainty for the hospitality industry, the Beverly Wilshire restaurant THEBlvd opened an outdoor pop-up eatery called THEBlvd Privé. Mayor Lester Friedman christened the alfresco hideaway with a brief introductory

speech, noting how Privé represented a success in the city's efforts to help businesses through the pandemic. "THEBlvd Privé is part of the City's OpenBH program that allows businesses to temporarily expand their services to adjacent outdoor areas such as sidewalks and parklets," he said. "The success of this program can be seen here tonight." ●

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Samir Roonwal, Executive Chef at Beverly Wilshire, A Four Seasons Hotel



THEBlvd Privé's Snake River Farm beef filet with truffled gnocchi, roasted greens and peppercorn Sauce



BHPD shut down the 400 block of Canon Drive to investigate

(Shooting continued from page 1)

During a busy Thursday of alfresco dining at Il Pastaio, three men descended on Shai Belhassen during one of his thrice weekly meals at the Beverly Hills institution. “I just saw them walking down, then running towards me with a gun,” Belhassen told the Courier. One of the three men, who he described as young, Black, and wearing sweatsuits, put a gun to his head while another began to take off his watch, a Richard Mille that Belhassen valued at hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Belhassen says that he then “grabbed the gun” from the suspect and “fought him to the ground.” They continued to wrestle on the ground when another patron, Drew Hancock, approached to intervene.

“I saw the guys wrestling. I thought it was just a drunken fight between friends or something. So I stood up, because I’m 6’ 4” and a giant, and I was walking over there to settle it down and then I hear one shot ring out,” he told the Courier. “I immediately

turn and then three more shots ring out as I’m grabbing my girlfriend and our friend and throwing them inside the door and diving in.”

But even with his quick action, his girlfriend, Amanda Shawshan, was injured in the volley. Hancock noticed the blood once inside the restaurant. “She was bleeding...on the back of her calf,” he said. Emergency services took Shawshan to Cedars-Sinai, where she was treated for the injury. Hancock said that Shawshan only needed a single stitch and was doing well.

The commotion from the shooting rippled down Canon Drive, with diners at other restaurants fleeing inside for shelter. Just moments before the gun fire, a man running north on Canon yelled out, “He has a gun, run,” according to Ashley, who works at a restaurant down the street. Almost immediately, the shots rang out from Il Pastaio. “Everyone from our restaurant ran inside and I think everyone was worried that there might be more coming.” She says the police arrived almost instantly.

Belhassen said that he continued to fight with one of the suspects for over a minute after the gun fired, at which point he wrested the gun away. “They realized that I had the gun [and] they ran away,” he said. “I could have pointed and shot at them, but I didn’t want to. For some reason, I don’t know why.”

According to BHPD, one other victim suffered physical injury during the incident, but was treated at the scene. ●

Lawsuit Filed against Beverly-Hills and BHPD Over Response to Protests

BY SAMUEL BRASLOW

The City of Beverly Hills and the Beverly Hills Police Department (BHPD) have been named in a lawsuit stemming from their handling of the protests in Beverly Hills last spring and summer. The lawsuit, filed in California Superior Court on Feb. 26, also names other Southern California cities and law enforcement agencies. The 38 plaintiffs in the case allege causes of action for violations of their civil and Constitutional rights. The complaint also makes claims of assault and battery, false imprisonment, negligence and intentional infliction of emotional distress.

One plaintiff, Alejandra Garcia, accuses the BHPD of using “excessive force” at protests in the city on June 12 and 26. At both protests, Garcia served as a medic, her attorneys told the Courier.

“The Beverly Hills Police Department officers were actively targeting the medics in this protest, and they wanted them stopped so that they couldn’t help or reach the injured protesters,” said lawyer Sara Azari.

The complaint alleges that on June 12, BHPD shot Garcia “at minimum two times with rubber-cased bullets, threw tear gas canisters within a dangerous proximity, and

kept plaintiff Garcia and other plaintiffs kettled within a small public area while utilizing a Long-Range Acoustic Device.”

On June 26, the complaint alleges that Garcia “was further subjected to excessive force, wherein officers of the defendant BHPD brutally beat, gassed, and again targeted her with a long-range acoustic device while peacefully protesting.” The lawsuit alleges that Garcia was detained for some 26 hours, without food or water, and only given a phone call at the end of that period.

“This is without a lawyer, even though she’s asked for a lawyer, and without reading her Miranda Rights,” said Azari.

As of press time, the city has not been served with the complaint. Beverly Hills City Attorney Laurence S. Wiener told the Courier, “Immediately after the George Floyd killing, those were very trying times and difficult times for the police department. We are very proud of the way the police department in general handled the protests. We haven’t yet been served with the complaint. If there are specific allegations regarding the city of Beverly Hills, we will look into those.” ●

ALERT

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Gearys Beverly Hills Photo by Bianca Heyward

(Golden Shield continued from page 5)

At the recommendation of the Cultural Heritage Commission, the Council established the Golden Shield cultural heritage recognition program in 2019 as a way to honor culturally important institutions, businesses, people, physical objects, landscaped areas and existing or demolished structures. Each recipient is awarded with a custom bronze plaque mounted to the sidewalk that highlights the significance of the location. The Golden Shield award is ceremonial only. Three nominees are selected quarterly by the Cultural Heritage Commission Landmark Subcommittee, and then nominated by the Cultural Heritage Commission for ultimate approval by the City Council.

Nominees are selected on several criteria, including: exemplifying a particular way of life that helped to strengthen the economy of the city; fostering public appreciation and civic pride for the character and quality of the city; possessing artistic or aesthetic values and unique characteristics of an architectural style, type, period or method of construction; association with community members businesses, institutions or events that are important to the cultural heritage of the city; possessing a unique location with singular, physical characteristics; or having educational value to the city and the community at large.

The first three recipients of Golden Shield recognition plaques include the site of the Dona Maria Rita Valdez de Villa Homestead, located at Sunset Boulevard and Alpine Drive; the original location of Lawry's Restaurant on North La Cienega Boulevard; and the original Giorgio Beverly Hills Boutique, the first luxury boutique on Rodeo Drive.

The fourth Golden Shield went to Nate 'N Al's Delicatessen, situated within Beverly Hills' Golden Triangle on 414 North Beverly Drive. First opened in 1945, it is the third oldest Jewish deli in the Los Angeles area, following Greenblatt's in Hollywood (1926), and Canter's in the Fairfax District (established 1931). "The deli expanded over many years and was a popular gathering place for local residents and luminaries in the entertainment industry," Mark Odell, the city's Urban Designer, said at the March 2 meeting. "The delicatessen also represents the rise of the Jewish population in Los Angeles in the 1940's and rapidly became a gathering

place for the Jewish community." The Deli has served as a longstanding neighborhood hub, regarded as an iconic Beverly Hills institution.

The fifth Golden Shield nomination went to the Gearys Beverly Hills flagship boutique located on North Beverly Drive. Gearys first opened its doors in 1930 at 357 North Beverly Drive in a Spanish Colonial Revival style structure designed by architect Harry E. Werner. H.L. Geary founded the shop and operated as a small neighborhood specialty store formerly called the H.L. Geary Art & Gift Shop, offering picture framing services, art supplies, fine dinnerware and tableware, as well as unique gifts for the home. By the late 1930's, the store had been rebranded as Gearys, and expanded into the building next door, at 351 North Beverly Drive, where it is still located today. The plaque would be placed on the sidewalk of the entry to Gearys.

The sixth Golden Shield went to the former George and Ira Gershwin Residence at 1019 North Roxbury Drive. The home was built in 1928 in the Spanish Colonial revival architectural style by architect Don Uhl. "The home was built for silent movie picture star, Monte Blue, and later rented to composer and lyricist brothers, George and Ira Gershwin," Odell said. "While living in the north Roxbury drive house, the Gershwin's wrote many iconic American songs. The house was later occupied by famous singer Rosemary Clooney in 1953 until her passing." While the home was demolished in 2005 and a new residence was built on the site, the Gershwin Residence is thought by city officials to be worthy of honor as a culturally significant site where significant achievements were made in American musical history.

"I love, love, love this program," Councilmember Lili Bosse said. "I think the Golden Shield program is just magnificent. The three that we're looking at today are very exciting because I see them as icons and truly like the heart and soul of our community. And really why we love our city is for reasons like Gearys Beverly Hills, you know, a family business, beloved, who's been in our community for over 70 years."

Bosse added: "I think this is very exciting, and I wholeheartedly support it and I thank the Cultural Heritage Commission for such a fantastic vision, and I am very



Site of the former Gershwin house Photo by Bianca Heyward

thrilled to support it."

To learn more about the Cultural Heritage Commission, visit <http://www.beverlyhills.org/departments/>

[communitydevelopment/planning/commissions/culturalheritagecommission/](http://www.beverlyhills.org/departments/communitydevelopment/planning/commissions/culturalheritagecommission/).

The next Cultural Heritage Commission meeting is scheduled for April 14. ●

(Schools Reopen continued from page 1)

The new in-person learning dates come after previously announced return dates of March 4 and March 8 were challenged by the Beverly Hills Education Association (Association), the union representing teachers. As set forth in the Courier's Feb. 26 issue ("Teachers Union Files Legal Action Against BHUSD") and updated on [BeverlyHillsCourier.com](http://www.beverlyhills.com), the Association filed for injunctive relief on Feb. 24 with the Public Employment Relations Board (PERB). The claim involved language of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the District and the Association.

An Addendum to the MOU signed last December specified the Adjusted Case Rates (ACR) of COVID-19 transmission that must be reached before triggering an in-person return. Those rates were not in place at the time the District announced the return dates. Since then, however, the ACR in Los Angeles County has dropped considerably. It now stands at 7.2/100,000, as opposed to 20/100,000 when the District first announced the March return.

In response to the Association's legal action, the District filed its formal Opposition with PERB on Feb. 26. Over the weekend, the parties engaged in mediation, which resulted in a tentative resolution of the matter. That good news was announced in a Feb. 28 statement by Bregy.

"The District and BHEA are pleased to announce that as a result of a productive mediation process this weekend, we have tentatively (pending BHUSD Board of Education and BHEA Leadership approval) resolved to follow mutually developed new safety measures that will benefit students, teachers, and our entire BHUSD community."

Bregy noted the push to provide educators with COVID-19 vaccines.

"We are aware that L.A. County is preparing to give BHUSD our first allocation of vaccinations for our employees this week and each subsequent week until everyone who wants to be vaccinated has received both doses. We have started creating a list to prioritize in-person elementary teachers

as they are the first teachers to interact with students in the classroom. We know that many employees have secured vaccinations already and some have booked appointments outside of the District."

Association President Alana Castanon emphasized that additional safety measures were crucial to the resolution of the dispute. In a statement to the Courier, she noted:

"We believe we have demonstrated that we expect the School District to honor its agreements but are pleased that this mediation has allowed us to work with the District to improve internal safety conditions and supports, thereby mitigating risks that would have been imposed by the new starting dates. The settlement includes access to vaccines, floor marking to enhance social distancing, PPE equipment and cleaning supplies, COVID-19 testing for staff, and accommodations for educators with higher risk health conditions or those who live in households with higher-risk individuals. BHEA appreciates the patience and support of the community as we worked to help ensure the safety of students, their families, and staff."

Bregy cautioned that there is still work to be done for the return to run smoothly.

"As all of the elements we have been planning for months are finally coming together, there are still moving pieces. These include managing time for our teachers and staff members to plan and adjust to the new instructional model. Many are physically walking into a classroom for the first time in almost a year. Due to the shift from LIVE@BHUSD to virtual and in-person instruction, every elementary student will have two days of asynchronous work before the changeover happens. Asynchronous work is independent time that is not supervised by your teacher," he said.

The Courier will report on the first days back in the classroom in next week's issue.

"I am hopeful we can have our middle and high school students back very soon," said Board President Rachelle Marcus in a statement to the community after the settlement was reached. ●

Police Blotter

The following incidents of arson, assault, burglary, DUI, grand, motor vehicle and petty theft, robbery and vandalism have been reported. Streets are usually indicated by block numbers.

**BEVERLY HILLS
ARSON**

3/1/2021, 1:11 a.m. at 400 Block of N. CRESCENT DR.

DUI ARREST

2/27/2021, 11:51 p.m. at WILSHIRE BLVD. / N. SANTA MONICA BLVD.

THEFT OF AUTO PARTS

2/27/2021, 7:00 p.m at 100 Block of N. ARNAZ DR.

2/27/2021, 6:00 p.m. at 100 Block of N. ARNAZ DR.

**BURGLARY -
RESIDENTIAL (NO ONE
HOME)**

2/27/2021, 9:30 p.m. at 500 Block of N. ROXBURY DR.

2/25/2021, 8:15 p.m. at 1700 Block of ANGELO DR.

2/18/2021, 9:20 P.m. at 200 Block of PECK DR

**THEFT FROM
COMMERCIAL
BUILDING**

2/25/2021, 1:14 p.m. at 300 Block of N. RODEO DR.

THEFT - PETTY

2/24/2021, 7:30 a.m. at 300 Block of S. DOHENY DR.

**BURGLARY -
RESIDENTIAL
(ACCESSED GARAGE
ONLY)**

2/24/2021, 10:04 a.m. at 100 Block of S. BEDFORD DR. D.

ASSAULT - AGGRAVATED

2/23/2021, 8:30 p.m. at 800 Block of FOOTHILL RD.

ROBBERY

2/23/2021, 3:35 P.m. at 200 Block of S LA CIENEGA BLVD.

MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT

2/23/2021, 2:45 p.m. at 9000 Block of OLYMPIC BLV

2/17/2021, 8:15 P.m. at S CRESCENT DR / WILSHIRE BLVD.

VANDALISM

2/23/2021, 4:57 a.m. at TOWER DR. / WILSHIRE BLVD.

2/19/2021, 5:00 a.m. at 300 Block of N OAKHURST DR

THEFT - GRAND

2/22/2021, 2:40 P.m. at 400 Block of N RODEO DR

2/17/2021, 5:47 P.m. at 9700 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

ASSAULT - SIMPLE

2/22/2021, 10:36 P.m. at 8400 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

on 2/22/2021, 7:00 a.m. at 1100 Block of LOMA LINDA DR

ARSON

2/22/2021, 4:15 a.m. at 100 Block of N HAMILTON DR

THEFT - PETTY

2/21/2021, 4:21 p.m. at 300 Block of N RODEO DR

2/20/2021, 4:14 a.m. at 300 Block of N CRESCENT DR

2/18/2021, 9:29 p.m. at 200 Block of PECK DR

DUI ARREST

2/18/2021, 7:22 a.m. at 9000 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

**THEFT - GRAND (FROM
VEHICLE)**

2/18/2021, 9:00 a.m. at 100 Block of S PALM DR

COVID-19 Vaccination Information



#BHHealthyCity

For appointments, visit [VaccinateLACounty.com](https://www.vaccinate.lacounty.gov) or myturn.ca.gov.

Those currently eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine include: Education and Childcare workers; Emergency Service workers; Food and Agriculture workers; Healthcare workers, Staff & Residents at Skilled Nursing Facilities and LA County Residents 65 and older.

LA County phone assistance is available for those without a computer:
833-540-0473 • seven days a week • 8 a.m.-8:30 p.m.

For general COVID-19 questions and information, visit: beverlyhills.org/coronavirus or contact the City's COVID-19 Hotline at 310-550-4680
Monday-Friday • 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

#BHHealthyCity

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Birthdays



**HAPPY BELATED BIRTHDAY
BELINDA MAISTERRA
March 4**



**TESS FOLTYN
March 6**



**SHAQUILLE O'NEAL
March 6**



**ED LOZZI
March 8**



**OLIVIA WILDE
March 10**



**CARRIE UNDERWOOD
March 10**



**DEBBIE JOYCE
March 11**

To our loyal Courier readers: We want to celebrate YOU! Going forward, we'd like our popular Birthday Page to reflect the community as a whole. So we're inviting you to send us your birthdate plus a high-resolution (300 dpi or above) headshot of yourself. Please send it at least two weeks in advance of your birthday, and we'll do our best to include it on our Birthday Page. Send the photos, along with your full name and birthday to: Editorial@BHCourier.com.



Astrology

BY HOLIDAY MATIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're a treasure. If you want to be pursued, then go where the treasure hunters are. Like a tattoo in invisible ink, it takes a special light to see the art, and it really only happens when a person knows it's there in the first place.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). We can only be trapped by what we want. We are held by our own white knuckles clinging to what we don't want to let go of. Fear of loss is the turn of the key that locks us in chains. If you agree to lose, then you will be free.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You have more stories than you think. The things you've done are so familiar to you that you cannot imagine how impressive they would be to another person, but if you share, you'll find out.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The best and brightest version of future-you hinges on the ability of today-you to pay close attention. To stay engaged, figure out what's in it for you, even when the scene seems to revolve completely around the other person.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Sometimes, you have faith and you act on it. Today,

your faith isn't as strong, but you still benefit from action. Keep shooting for the goal regardless of whether you think you can make it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Messes occur. It's not your job to clean them up, though you'll probably do it anyway, or at least be involved, because leaving things better than you found them is in your creed.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Some pressures exist only because of a thought. The thought doesn't have to be true to make the pressure very real. A thought is causing you stress unnecessarily. Identify and release it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). If you ask the others, they'll tell you what they see and you won't be able to help being influenced. To find that truly original take on the situation, wait before you ask. Look at it a long time by yourself first.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Trying to accomplish everything on the list will be too stressful and counterproductive. Decide on what you're not going to do today and, suddenly, everything lightens up. Plus, you move quicker.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). There's a risk inherent in every interaction, only it doesn't feel as risky with those whom you can predict. Fresh

blood will energize you and bring about your most daring self.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). With so many unwritten rules governing today's interactions, you may just decide to go rogue and put an end to the easy compliance that has been the dysfunctional norm of the situation.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). No one knows how you do it, but somehow you're able to draw vitality from lackluster scenes, badly illuminated in fluorescent light. Your imagination knocks out walls to install its own sun-streamed windows.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 5). An inspiring relationship plays into the changes you make this year. That long list of things you didn't have time for before gets a lot shorter as you check off many adventures. You're not setting out to develop yourself; it just happens. Plans shift and expand. There are more people to care for and also put to work. Cancer and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 1, 36, 46, 10 and 5.



Eight-year-old Davis' owners moved and left him at a shelter. He weighs approximately nine pounds and is believed to be a Jack Russell mix. If you can help Davis with the next chapter of his life, please call Shelter of Hope at 805-379-3538.

www.shelterhopepetshop.org

Sepulveda Transit Corridor Study Area



solutions that best meet the mobility needs of the corridor.”

Metro estimates that the PDA and environmental review process will take until 2025. Metro has broken it up into five stages. The end of each stage gives Metro the opportunity, or “off ramp,” to reject a concept. But even after Metro ceases working with a private contractor, they continue to own the rights to the concept at any stage. In this sense, the contractors serve as partners with the agency.

The Board will vote March 25 on whether to enter into PDAs with Skyrail and Bechtel, which would cost \$63.6 million and \$69.9 million respectively. Until then, Metro says that the public has time to review the proposals. But according to some groups, not enough public material exists to make informed opinions on the proposals.

“Metro has been far from transparent and they have basically made decisions in their own vacuum, letting us know bits and pieces about their intentions and bringing in several PR people to interface with the public,” Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council Traffic/Transportation Committee Chairperson Irene Sandler told the Courier in an email. “It’s hard to make evaluations or to respond to Metro’s choices and plans for this segment with insufficient information!”

Bob Anderson, Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association (SOHA) board member and Transportation Committee Chair, also felt the public had been shortchanged at a critical moment. “Metro has put

the public in a bind. They’ve given us a month to make comments. Their decision is March 25, which means you have to get a comment to them by about the 14th of March if you want them to actually pay attention to it,” he told the Courier.

Anderson himself says he had to request the full proposals from Metro and has read through 2,000 pages, but that Metro has not made the information accessible or digestible. “They only provided a few sentences on each concept in their Board Report. They need to provide more summary information to help the public understand the concepts and what’s going to happen.”

In the Feb. 25 meeting, Metro emphasized how the process had only just begun. The public would have ample time to weigh in on the proposals, said Colin Peppard, Senior Director of Metro’s Public-Private Partnerships (P3) Program.

“From the standpoint of the public, there will be probably about two years...of public feedback, technical analysis to really understand the corridor better from a technical standpoint and an engineering standpoint, and, ultimately, evolution and refinements of any of the concepts,” he said.

According to Metro’s current timeline, the line will begin operations by 2033-2035, although Metro lists the project as a candidate for accelerated completion under the “Twenty-Eight by ’28” initiative for the 2028 Olympic Games. The LAX extension is scheduled for a 2057-59 opening date. ●



(Metro continued from page 1)

The use of private input this early in the process is a new strategy for the transit agency—one that it hopes will reduce costs for what promises to be one of the most expensive undertakings in its history. The public will have until March 25 to give feedback on the proposals before the Board of Directors votes on whether to enter into Pre-Development Agreements (PDA) with the contractors. Following that vote, Metro will begin the environmental review process while PDA teams simultaneously refine their plans—a process that Metro says incorporates ample opportunity for public response.

Traditionally, Metro does not bring on private sector partners until later in the process. Instead, Metro will spend often years crafting proposals, vetting them through the environmental review process, selecting a preferred option, and then soliciting contracts from private companies to execute it at the lowest cost. Indeed, Metro first began the Sepulveda Transit Corridor Project in this way. But when Metro revealed the estimated cost for four proposals in 2019, ranging between \$9.4 billion and \$13.8 billion, the sticker shock sent the agency searching for another option. The project’s main source of funding, Measure M, only provides \$5.7 billion to connect the Valley and the Westside.

Metro landed on the use of a public-private partnership model known as a Pre-Development Agreement (PDA), which brings in private collaboration much earlier in the process. Under a PDA, Metro works

with a contractor before the completion of the study-intensive environmental review process. This gives the contractor the opportunity to provide engineering, construction, and operational input at an earlier junction, hopefully lowering costs in the long run.

Metro received four PDA proposals from contractors by August 2020, which included designs for monorail, light rail, and heavy rail. Metro then assembled a team of experts to evaluate the four proposals, scoring them on a range of criteria such as technical qualifications and financial feasibility. On Feb. 25, staff presented the two highest scoring proposals to the Board: a monorail line proposed by LA Skyrail Express and a heavy rail line by Sepulveda Transit Corridor Partners - Bechtel.

“This is a really exciting process that we’re about to undertake,” said Chief Innovation Officer Joshua Schank. “It’s like nothing that’s been done before in this industry. The use of a Pre-Development Agreement alone is unusual, but the fact that we’re using two different teams and enabling the kind of innovation and competition and excitement that comes with that type of arrangement has never been done before.”

It is unclear how Metro’s earlier concepts fit into the agency’s plans going forward. When asked about whether Metro would continue to pursue any of its own concepts, Metro Communications Manager Dave Sotero told the Courier, “During the environmental review process, we will be evaluating PDA concepts and other potential



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An example of the Safe Streets Program in Los Feliz

(Rent Subsidy continued from page 1)

In return, participating landlords will also have to agree not to evict tenants for a year. The program is administered by Jewish Family Services (JFS), a non-profit that offers a range of services throughout L.A.

The Council received the first comprehensive update on March 2 since the application period closed on Dec. 7. Potentially an indication of the economic pain radiating through Beverly Hills, the city received more than double the expected number of applications for assistance. While the city anticipated about 200, according to Deputy Director of Rent Stabilization Helen Morales, it fielded a total of 520.

Morales broke down the status of the applications. Of the 520, staff were able to reject 40 out of hand because the tenant either lived in a non-RSO unit, the tenant received the Los Angeles County Rent Relief Program subsidy, or the tenant's monthly rent ran higher than \$4,000. Of the 480 remaining, JFS has made final determinations of 91, raising concerns about the speed of the process. Then, of those reviewed, only 21 were deemed eligible for the assistance.

"When I see that our denial rate was 77 percent and our approval rate was 23 percent, that really is devastating in terms of percentages," said Councilmember Lili Bosse.

Morales defended the numbers, saying that even though many applicants truly believed themselves financially harmed by COVID-19, other forms of government assistance had sometimes made up for or exceeded lost wages. "When we were doing a comparison of what their current income was post- and pre-COVID, there was no change, and in some cases, they earned more with receiving [unemployment insurance] payments than they did before COVID-19."

Beyond that, Morales identified three impediments to a higher approval rate: applicants' lack of documentation showing a financial impact as a result of COVID-19; landlords' refusal to sign documentation, including a statement saying they would not evict a tenant for failing to pay back rent; and difficulty coordinating with the County to avoid granting money to a resident already receiving money from the County.

Morales explained that many landlords believe that by refusing the subsidy, they

can evict a tenant as soon as the crisis ends, possibly renting the units at market rate. As City Attorney Laurence Weiner explained, California's recently enacted SB 91 makes it considerably harder for landlords to evict tenants for unpaid rent over the course of the pandemic, thus incentivizing landlords to cooperate with assistance programs. Morales said after explaining this to some landlords, they have reversed their positions. The holdouts, she said, have tended to be corporate landlords.

Council members expressed frustration at the refusal of some landlords to participate in the program. Councilmember Bosse suggested that the City Attorney draft a letter explaining the rules regarding eviction to landlords. Going further, Councilmember John Mirisch suggested exploring a measure that would disincentivize evicting tenants in these cases. Mayor Lester Friedman agreed, saying, "We do need to look at it and see if there is something that we can craft that would take away that incentive from the landlord."

As a silver lining, Morales said the city has only spent \$288,000 of \$1.1 million allocated to the fund, leaving open the possibility of another round of applications. "I do think that because our eligible candidates are less, we will have additional funds available and we can open up another period and request additional applications at that time," she said.

Also at the March 2 Study Session, the Council voiced unanimous support to move forward with a Neighborhood Slow Streets Program. The COVID-19 pandemic has reshaped the relationship between residents and their immediate surroundings. As a result of stay-at-home orders and remote working, many people spend more time at home and in their neighborhoods when they would otherwise be at work or school. In response to this paradigm shift, cities like Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Pasadena have implemented Slow Streets Programs, reducing traffic volume and creating a safer environment for residents to walk, bike and exercise safely.

"I am extremely supportive of this," said Councilmember Bosse. "It encourages less traffic, encourages more walkability, encourages people to be outside, [and] it does not stop people who live on the street to have access to their homes."



9111 Wilshire, or Gibraltar Square, is slated to join the city's fleet of hotels

(Planning Commission continued from page 5)

Community Development Department Director Ryan Gohlich pointed out that the city requires 200 square feet of open spaces per residential unit in a building. "That open space can either be provided as private open space directly attached to the unit or it can also be provided as common open space," he said, giving the example of rooftops open to residents. Additionally, the Planning Commission has the authority to deviate from requirements in cases of

adaptive reuse of office buildings.

Ostroff also suggested that the one-year provision in the permitting process is "unrealistic" and "insufficient for a project like this to break ground." Gohlich offered that the next time the Commission performs "code cleanup," they revisit the time frame of the permits.

"It is quite challenging nowadays with various codes that have to be complied with, to where somebody is able to actually start physical construction within one year of approval," Gohlich said. ●

Bosse, whose "Walk With the Mayor" initiative during her stint as mayor promoted active lifestyles in the city, went as far to suggest the program could be extended after the pandemic.

The program only applies to local residential street blocks with a 25 mile per hour speed limit. It does not extend to collector or arterial roads. The block must be sponsored by a resident and reviewed by staff from the Public Works, Police and Fire Departments. Then, the sponsor must receive support from at least 51 percent of block residents.

Successfully completing this process would result in placement of signage with barricades and traffic cones at both ends of the street. The exact form of the barricade and signage would depend on the width available, City Engineer Daren Grilley told the Council. Generally, though, Grilley said the city would place an a-frame barricade in the street, "Most likely near the right shoulder, so that it wouldn't impact traffic, but it would be clearly visible to anybody coming into that neighborhood."

Grilley admitted that apart from the signage, the program lacks teeth. "It's aspirational, it's not enforceable," he said, though he pointed to positive early data from other participating cities.

Councilmember Julian Gold expressed concern that if too many blocks seized on the program, it could hurt traffic in the city. Most other council members seemed unworried about that prospect and instead waxed nostalgic about their childhoods playing safely in the street. While Grilley clarified that some team sports could potentially violate COVID-19 public safety measures, kids (or adults) could throw a football—or even, as Gold offered from his own childhood,

stickball.

"I think that would be fantastic if people started doing that," said Grilley.

Finally, the Council unanimously voted to make changes to the city municipal code and overhaul the city's process of procuring contracts for goods and services at the Regular Session. As a part of the overhaul, the Council updated the city's tiered system of delegating purchases. Currently, the city has four "approval levels" for granting contracts and making purchases. At existing levels, the City Council approves bids over \$50,000, a significantly lower threshold than in cities like Burbank, Mountain View, or Santa Monica. The City Manager approves bids up to \$50,000, the Director of Finance oversees bids up to \$25,000, and department heads approve bids up to \$7,500.

This tiered system is meant to delegate tasks, freeing up the City Council to consider the largest contracts. However, approval levels have not been changed since 2006 and the staff report compiled for the Study Session notes that the "relatively low current City Council threshold results in additional agenda items for many routine contracts or purchases, requiring significant staff and City Council time."

Now, the city increased its approval levels for the City Council to over \$100,000, up to \$100,000 for the City Manager, up to \$50,000 for the Director of Finance, and up to \$10,000 for department heads. The Council also expressed support for reviewing the changes again in three to five years.

"It shouldn't have taken 15 years," said Councilmember Mirisch. ●

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2021021589

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F & M PROPERTIES

344 S. Elm Dr. #4, Beverly Hills, CA 90212; **Marie P. Knecht** 344 S. Elm Dr. #4, Beverly Hills, CA 90212; **Fred D. Page** 13078 Mindanao Way #212, Marina Del Rey, CA 90292; The business is conducted by: **A GENERAL PARTNERSHIP**, registrant(s) has **NOT** begun to transact business under the name(s) listed: **Marie P. Knecht, Partner**: Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: January 27, 2021; Published: February 12, 19, 26, March 05, 2021 **LACC N/C**

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2021029530

The following is/are doing business as:

CARING HEARTS CAREGIVER PLACEMENT SERVICES

601 N. Kings Rd. #103, West Hollywood, CA 90048; **Susan Kraut** 601 N. Kings Rd. #103, West Hollywood, CA 90048; The business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL**, registrant(s) has begun to transact business under the name(s) listed January 2016: **Susan Kraut, Owner**: Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: February 03, 2021; Published: February 19, 26, March 05, 12, 2021 **LACC N/C**

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2021039726

The following is/are doing business as:

SHARP AND ASSOCIATES PR

1516 N. Fairfax Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90046; **Pamela Sharp** 1516 N. Fairfax Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90046; The business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL**, registrant(s) has begun to transact business under the name(s) listed January 2021: **Pamela Sharp, Owner**: Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: February 12, 2021; Published: February 26, March 05, 12, 19, 2021 **LACC N/C**

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2021039724

The following is/are doing business as:

SMALL TOWN WEIRDO

312 S. Beverly Dr. #7150, Beverly Hills, CA 90212; **Molecule Productions, LLC** 312 S. Beverly Dr. #7150, Beverly Hills, CA 90212; The business is conducted by: **A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY**, registrant(s) has begun to transact business under the name(s) listed January 2021: **Adam Reich, Member**: Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: February 12, 2021; Published: February 26, March 05, 12, 19, 2021 **LACC N/C**

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2021039728

The following is/are doing business as:

RMC MENTAL HEALTH

9041 W. 24th St., Los Angeles, CA 90034; **Riana Chagoury-Leake** 9041 W. 24th St., Los Angeles, CA 90034; The business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL**, registrant(s) has **NOT** begun to transact business under the name(s) listed: **Riana Chagoury-Leake, Owner**: Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: February 12, 2021; Published: February 26, March 05, 12, 19, 2021 **LACC N/C**

PUBLIC NOTICES

OF THIS DOCUMENT BUT ONLY TO THE COPIES PROVIDED TO THE TRUSTOR.

NOTE: THERE IS A SUMMARY OF THE INFORMATION IN THIS DOCUMENT ATTACHED. **NOTA: SE ADJUNTA UN RESUMEN DE LA INFORMACIÓN DE ESTE DOCUMENTO TALA: MAYROONG BUOD NG IMPORMASYON SA DOKUMENTONG ITO NA NAKALAKIP LU'U Y: KEM THEO DÂY LÀ BÀN TRÌNH BÀY TÓM LU'OC VỀ THÔNG TIN TRONG TÀI LIỆU NÀY**

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Trustor: **PAUL A. DREHER JR.**, A SINGLE MAN

Duly Appointed Trustee: **Western Progressive, LLC**

Deed of Trust Recorded 09/28/2001 as Instrument No. 01-1843216 in book ---, page--- and of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of Los Angeles County, California, Date of Sale: 04/13/2021 at 11:00 AM

Place of Sale: **BEHIND THE FOUNTAIN LOCATED IN CIVIC CENTER PLAZA, 400 CIVIC CENTER PLAZA, POMONA, CA 91766**

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PUBLIC NOTICES

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
CASE NO: 21SMCP00069
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

In the Matter of the petition of: **RYAN NIMA TABATABAI**

To all interested person(s):
Petitioner:

Ryan Nima Tabatabai

Presently over 18 years of age, current residence: 504 North Crescent Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210 filed a petition with the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401 on February 23, 2021 for a Decree changing names as follows:

Present Name:

Ryan Nima Tabatabai

Proposed Name:

RYAN JAMES ZOHOURY

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted.

NOTICE OF HEARING:

Date: April 30, 2021

Time: 8:30 AM

Department: K

The address of the court is: 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401

Reason for name change: Petitioner is already known by HIS proposed name wishes to be known by his proposed name in all personal/business affairs.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Signed:

Ryan Nima Tabatabai

Judge of the Superior Court: **Lawrence Cho**

Clerk: **Sherri R. Carter**

Deputy: **T. Rhodes**

Dated: February 23, 2021

Published: 03/05/21, 03/12/21, 03/19/21, 03/26/21

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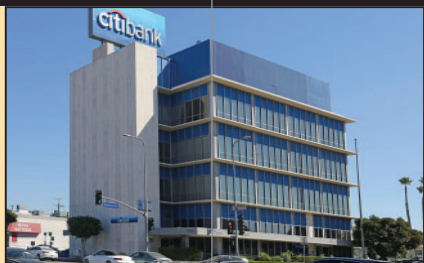
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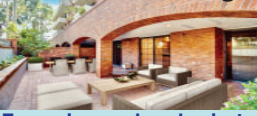
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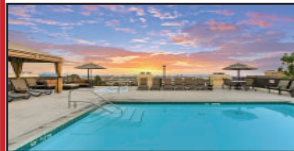
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