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THE WEATHER, BEVERLY HILLS

☀️ Friday	81°   65°
☀️ Saturday	78°   66°
☀️ Sunday	82°   68°
☀️ Monday	81°   68°
☁️ Tuesday	78°   66°
☁️ Wednesday	76°   66°
☁️ Thursday	78°   65°

## Continuing Surge Prompts Vaccination Requirements

BY SAMUEL BRASLOW AND MICHAEL WITTNER

State and local governments are responding to an "explosion" in COVID-19 cases with new restrictions designed to encourage and require vaccinations and stem the spread of the deadly virus. Both the Los Angeles City Council and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors have officially begun exploring city – and county – wide vaccination requirements for indoor spaces. Additionally, the

state has introduced vaccine requirements for all school employees. Hospitals, too, now require proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours.

On Aug. 10, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to look into options to require residents to show proof of vaccinations to enter certain indoor spaces, though exactly which spaces are still

being determined. The Board directed the L.A. County Department of Public Health to provide a report in two weeks on the specifics of the plan, and how it will be enforced. If passed, the new rules would only apply to unincorporated areas of the county and would not apply to Beverly Hills.

**(Vaccination Requirements continues on page 8)**



Cedars-Sinai Medical Center now requires visitors to provide proof of vaccination. Photo courtesy of Cedars-Sinai Medical Center

## Tourists Taking Risky Canon Drive Photos in Beverly Hills

BY MICHAEL WITTNER

Underneath 50-foot high palm trees, a woman stands in the yellow line in the middle of Canon Drive, posing fetchingly. A man crouches down to take her picture. A car passes by, swerving around them. That was the first take.

For take two, the woman crouches down herself, now at eye-level with the photographer. After he takes her photo, she looks at it and asks for a retake. They try again. Then a third time. More cars swerve around them.

All told, the photographer - a Turkish man calling himself Tutku who runs his own business taking professional photos of tourists at choice spots around Los Angeles - and his customer, a woman from Kenya who asked to remain anonymous, luxuriated in the middle of Canon Drive for at least five

minutes.

Various residents who live on the stretch of Canon Drive just north of Beverly Gardens Park told the Courier that they see scenes like this as often as fifteen times a day, a trend that has accelerated over the past three years. Tourists from all over the world hope to get a photo of themselves in front of towering palm trees, and to get the best angle, they pose in the middle of the street, sometimes staying there for several minutes. **(Canon Drive continues on page 9)**

## Jake Manaster Announces Run for City Treasurer

BY MICHAEL WITTNER

Former BHUSD President and Traffic and Parking Commission Chair Jake Manaster announced Aug. 12 that he will be running for Beverly Hills City Treasurer in the 2022 elections.

A resident of Beverly Hills for over 20 years, Manaster is a lawyer who is currently president and CEO of Contract Carpet Corporation, a 55-year-old flooring business. **(Jake Manaster continues on page 7)**



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Experience and celebrate the works of post-impressionist painter Vincent van Gogh in a completely new and unforgettable way with Immersive Van Gogh Exhibit Los Angeles. Audiences can step inside the artist's iconic works—from sunny landscapes and night scenes to his portraits and still life paintings—and evoke his emotional, chaotic inner consciousness through art, music, light, movement and imagination. Guests can view over 500,000 cubic feet of projections and animated works. The exhibit was seen by over two million visitors in Paris and had a sold-out run in Toronto. Acclaimed Creative Director David Korins (“Hamilton” and “Dear Evan Hansen”) made custom design elements for the Los Angeles production. Designed by creator and Italian film producer Massimiliano Siccardi and featuring music by Italian multimedia composer Luca Longobardi, Immersive Van Gogh Exhibit Los Angeles is selling tickets through January 2022.  
<https://www.vangoghla.com/#buytickets>



**NOW**  
**WARNER BROS. STUDIO TOUR**  
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*9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.*

Warner Bros. Studio Tour Hollywood is a walkthrough and guided tour of Warner Bros. Studio, Burbank in Los Angeles. After being greeted at the new Welcome Center, guests' gateway to Hollywood, guests will begin the tour at the “Storytelling Showcase” and learn about the history of the studio and its television and film productions. During the midpoint of the tour at “Stage 48: Script to Screen,” guests will find the expanded Central Perk Café and Friends boutique with a New York deli inspired menu. There is a new interactive grand finale, “Action and Magic Made Here,” which includes costumes, props, and recreated sets from the D.C. Universe and The Wizarding World of Harry Potter and Fantastic Beasts. Fans will have access to exclusive merchandise from their favorite film and television titles. The Warner Bros. Studio Tour Hollywood is available Thursdays - Mondays.  
<https://www.wbstudiotour.com/>

**NOW – AUG. 25**  
**AUG. 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25**  
**2021 HOLLYWOOD FRINGE FESTIVAL:**  
**“THE WAKE OF DICK JOHNSON”**

2021 Hollywood Fringe Festival presents the off-Broadway production in its West Coast Premiere of “The Wake of Dick Johnson.” The one-man comedy is performed live and in person at Hudson Theatres in Hollywood by writer and director Luke Walker. Tickets are on sale, and there will only be eight performances. It is intended for mature audiences only as the play contains offensive content, including racist terms, blasphemy, themes and depictions of violence, sexism, abuse and extensive profanity.  
<http://hff21.co/7066>

**NOW – SEPT. 9**  
**CONCERTS ON CANON BEVERLY**  
**CANON GARDENS**  
*6 - 8 p.m.*

The Concerts on Canon summer series kicked off on Aug. 4 and continues every Thursday through Sept. 9. The much beloved musical event is a place for the community to enjoy great bands in a beautiful setting. The season's lineup includes Bill Rotella and the Earthtones on Aug. 19; Singular Nature on Aug. 26; Joyce Partise on Sept. 2 and Music Carolyn on Sept. 9. The bands will play from 6-7 p.m., followed by a 15-minute intermission and continue until 8 p.m. Chairs will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis, but there is plenty of seating on the large, grassy area for blankets. Guests can purchase food at the nearby eateries or bring a picnic-packed meal and enjoy the concert while dining. Beverly Canon Gardens is located on Canon Drive adjacent to The Maybourne Beverly Hills. Parking is available adjacent to Beverly Canon Gardens.  
[www.beverlyhills.org/concertsoncanon](http://www.beverlyhills.org/concertsoncanon)

**NOW – OCT. 31**  
**LACMA: “CAULEEN SMITH: GIVE IT OR**  
**LEAVE IT”**

The Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) introduces “Cauleen Smith: Give It or Leave It.” Cauleen Smith, based out of Los Angeles, is an interdisciplinary artist whose work illuminates the everyday possibilities of the imagination. It is a traveling solo exhibition of video, film, and installations and highlights a series of experimental portraits that relate to creativity, spirituality, and utopianism. The exhibit is accompanied by companion show “Cauleen Smith: Stars in My Pocket and the Rent is Due,” which can be viewed at LACMA's gallery at Charles White Elementary School until Sept. 25.  
<https://www.lacma.org/press/cauleen-smith-give-it-or-leave-it?>



**AUG. 13 PREVIEW**  
**AUG. 14-SEPT. 5 SHOW OPENS**  
**INDEPENDENT SHAKESPEARE CO.:**  
**“THE TEMPEST”**  
*7 p.m.*

The return of in-person performances at Independent Shakespeare Co. will begin with “The Tempest.” Independent Shakespeare Co. will use a new location at the Old Zoo in Griffith Park to create a site-specific production to present Prospero's island in the play. Directed by Artistic Director Melissa Chalsma, “The Tempest” will begin previews at the Griffith Park Free Shakespeare Festival on Aug. 7, and performances will open on Aug. 14 at 7 p.m. All Festival performances and events are free. Space is limited as there is a capacity limit of 250, and audience members must reserve seating on the grass. Reservations are required as walk-ups may not be accommodated.  
<http://www.iscla.org>

**AUG. 14**  
**GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF LOS ANGELES**  
**2021 GALA**  
*8 p.m.*

The Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles (GMCLA) 2021 Gala will take place on Aug. 14. Andra Day and Shoshana Bean will both join the GMCLA Gala Livestream. The event will be hosted by Carson Kressley, and there will be live performances by GMCLA's Aftershock and celebrity guests. The “Voice Award” will be presented to Dr. Jerry Abraham. Funds will be raised for GMCLA's return to schools for the Alive Music Project and GMCLA's reopening season. The gala is supported by a \$50,000 Challenge Grant from Carol and Richard Weaver with a sponsorship from Morgan Stanley.  
[https://gmcla.org/events/gala-2021/?mc\\_cid=189a9a944d&mc\\_eid=6b591b7e79](https://gmcla.org/events/gala-2021/?mc_cid=189a9a944d&mc_eid=6b591b7e79)

**AUG. 17**  
**THE GREEK THEATRE: LOS LOBOS**  
**AND THE MAVERICKS**  
*4:45 p.m. doors open, 6 p.m. show starts*

Bobby Dee, Snoop Dogg, and Goldenvoice present Los Lobos and The Mavericks with Ozomatli, Trish Toledo, Thee Lakesiders, and Thee Sinseers at The Greek Theatre. Los Lobos is a band that gained recognition by playing revved-up versions of Mexican folk music at parties and restaurants; it includes David Hidalgo, Louie Perez, Cesar Rosas and Conrad Lozano. The Mavericks, masters of country-Latin rock ‘n’ roll, have moved from Miami to Nashville and have conquered Europe. After a hiatus in 2004, the band has reestablished itself in 2012 as the irrepressible mix of country, Tex-Mex, rockabilly and Latino sounds.  
<https://www.axs.com/events/401198/los-lobos-and-the-mavericks-tickets>



**AUG. 17**  
**LOS ANGELES PHILHARMONIC AT**  
**THE HOLLYWOOD BOWL: “DUDAMEL**  
**LEAD ELGAR AND GRIEG”**  
*8 p.m.*

Los Angeles Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl presents “Dudamel Lead Elgar and Grieg.” With conductor Gustavo Dudamel and Sheku Kanneh-Mason on the cello, Dudamel shares the glories of Elgar's “Enigma Variations” and Cello Concerto in addition to music from Grieg's “Peer Gynt,” a play by Henrik Ibsen. Kanneh-Mason examines the dark, rich textures of Elgar's concerto while Dudamel concludes the night with imposing Enigma Variations.  
<https://www.hollywoodbowl.com/events/performances/1264/2021-08-17/dudamel-leads-elgar-and-grieg>

**AUG. 21**  
**HOLLYWOOD BOWL: SING-A-LONG**  
**“SOUND OF MUSIC”**  
*7:30 p.m.*

Join the Sing-A-Long “Sound of Music” at the Hollywood Bowl for a fun-filled event. The song-filled hills of Europe come to the Hollywood Hills for a night of celebration and singing. There is also a pre-show costume contest where guests can dress up and sing.  
<https://www.hollywoodbowl.com/events/performances/1270/2021-08-21/sing-a-long-sound-of-music>



**AUG. 21**  
**THE MUSIC CENTER'S SUMMER**  
**SOUNDWAVES: LAS CAFETERAS**  
*8 p.m.*

The Music Center offers summer nights dancing under the stars on the Jerry Moss Plaza with The Music Center's Summer SoundWaves. The new outdoor experience includes family-friendly concerts and presents the sounds of Los Angeles with blends of Afro-Mexican rhythms and electronic dance beats. On Aug. 21, Las Cafeteras will present new music with its high energy, electronic sound and cross musical borders. The band invigorates the roots music of Latinidad with a modern thrust, and fans can enjoy before their nationwide tour. Crisia Regalado from Sin Color, Moisés Baqueiro from El Conjunto Nueva Ola, and dancers from Ballet Folklórico de Los Ángeles will join Las Cafeteras. On Sept. 4, The Music Center will present “A Night with Juke Bounce Week.” Tickets are on sale now.  
[https://www.musiccenter.org/tickets/events-by-the-music-center/las-cafeteras/?utm\\_source=wordfly&utm\\_medium=email&utm](https://www.musiccenter.org/tickets/events-by-the-music-center/las-cafeteras/?utm_source=wordfly&utm_medium=email&utm)



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## Concerts on Canon Continue on Aug. 19



The City of Beverly Hills Community Service Department and its summer series program, Concerts on Canon, brings local singer-songwriter Bill Rotella and The Earthtones to Beverly Canon Gardens on Aug. 19, with original folksy, Southern rock music and soulful tunes.

Singer-songwriter Bill Rotella is a solo artist from Los Angeles who also performs with The Earthtones and has recorded 12 albums, both as a soloist and with his Los Angeles-based bands. He recently released a 20 song compilation album "River of Smoke-A Retrospective" in 2020.

This popular, free outdoor entertainment

series takes place every Thursday from now through Sept. 9, with two 45-minute musical sets at 6 p.m. and 7:15 p.m. Tables and chairs are provided on a first-come, first-served basis, but there is plentiful seating on the large, grassy area for your blankets. Guests can have their own picnic in the park by bringing their own picnic-packed meal or purchasing a boxed meal from one of the neighboring restaurants.

The remaining season line-up includes Singular Nature on Aug. 26, Joyce Partise on Sept. 2 and Music Carolyn on Sept. 9. Beverly Canon Gardens is located on Canon Drive by The Maybourne Beverly Hills. ●

## Rent Stabilization Commission Returns as Vacancy Rate at 11%

SAMUEL BRASLOW



The Rent Stabilization Commission held its first meeting in months on Aug. 4, following the resignation of two of the Commission's tenant representatives in April. It appears the return to business came none too soon, as the City Council heard updates on the Rent Stabilization Ordinance and the city's stock of rent stabilized units, which currently sit at an 11% vacancy rate – up from 6.8% the year before.

"I've never seen it this high," said Deputy Director of Rent Stabilization Helen Morales at the Aug. 3 Study Session. The uptick represents more than a 60% rise from last year.

While owners are not required to report why a tenant vacates a rent stabilized unit, Morales said that the timing suggests a possible connection with the pandemic. Morales could not say definitively, but added that rents may have declined as a result of the pandemic, especially given the vacancy rate.

"The rent amounts may have decreased as a result of that in order to get tenants to move into the units," she said. The latest data of rent stabilized units shows that the most frequently rented units are one bedroom at an average of \$2,260.

In response to a question from Vice Mayor Lili Bosse, Morales said that the city could conduct outreach to landlords and tenants to determine the reasons behind a vacancy.

"I think we all do want to understand why we have this vacancy [rate]," Bosse said.

The report took stock of the impact of its Rent Stabilization Ordinance, which passed in 2017. Morales said the data showed that "the rent stabilization has helped keep rents down for those households who have longer tenure."

Mayor Robert Wunderlich dove into the data himself and surfaced with the conclusion that the ordinance has worked. He compared the rent of rent stabilized units with no change in occupancy to rent stabilized units that returned to the market and had an opportunity to adjust to market rate. For one-bedroom apartments, the difference between the two was \$2,269 and \$2,279. For two-bedroom units, the difference was \$3,135 and \$3,144.

"This indicates to me that the ordinance is working, that it's provided protection against isolated incidents of exorbitant rents, while still not resulting in a large deviation between market rents and the rents under

the rent stabilization ordinance," he said.

Morales also presented the Council with updates on the city's COVID-19 Rent Subsidy Program, which the City Council approved in September 2020. The program applies to tenants living on multi-family properties that fall under the Rent Stabilization Ordinance, prioritizing seniors and households with children enrolled in Beverly Hills Unified School District (BHUSD). The program offers eligible residents up to \$1,000 for three months, with the money going directly to the landlord under the condition that the landlord grants the tenant a year to repay back rent. Landlords also must agree not to evict tenants for a year.

According to Morales, the city has received 520 rent subsidy applications, more than twice the anticipated number of applications. About 84 of those applications were from households with children enrolled in BHUSD or with a senior household member. Jewish Family Services, the nonprofit contracted by the city to administer the program, reviewed about 450 of the applicants and granted rent subsidies in 99 cases – an approval rate of 19%. In total, the city gave property owners about \$300,000 in direct subsidy payments.

The rate of denial raised some concerns for some council members. Morales explained that in most cases, applicants were making as much or more money from unemployment than they were prior to the pandemic. In other instances of rejection, applicants did not provide sufficient documentation, generated income above the 80% Area Median Income threshold, paid over \$4,000 in rent, lived in a non-RSO unit, or received rental assistance from Los Angeles County.

Also of concern to the Council, 41 applicants could not receive the subsidy because their property owner refused to participate in the program. "I cannot get a straight answer from owners," Morales said about why the landlords refused the funds. "They feel like they're giving something in exchange by saying they won't evict the tenant."

At the Rent Stabilization Commission meeting, the commission swore in the newest members. The commission is composed of two landlord representatives, two tenant representatives, and two homeowners. Zachary Sokoloff replaced Gwendolyn Owens, former-alternate Kathy Bronte replaced Kathryn Jacoby, and Kandace Lindsey-Cerqueira filled the alternate position left by Bronte. The newly recomposed commission voted to recommend to the City Council that the city's eviction moratorium end at the same time as the State of California's moratorium. ●



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# Enrollment Update from BHUSD

BY BIANCA HEYWARD



Just a few days before the start of the 2021-22 school year, Beverly Hills Unified School District (BHUSD) Superintendent Dr. Michael Bregy provided the Board of Education with an update on enrollment. At the middle and high school level, the district reported an increase in enrollment from last year. At the elementary level, though, enrollment declined from last year. As of Aug. 10, the cumulative enrollment at BHUSD for 2021 was 3,198 – down from last year, which was

3,281.

Bregy underscored that the numbers are changing each day. “Just today alone, four or five new families came in to register,” he said. Last week, 41 new students registered.

District saw its numbers decline during the COVID-19 pandemic, with many of its younger learners moving to private schools resulting from frustration surrounding school closures. “In the next several months, we’ll be able to see this shakeout as far as our enrollment, and then start looking at some of the trends in the entire community,” Bregy added.

For the 2021-2022 school year, enrollment at the high school is up by 10 from last year with 1,245, and up by five at the middle school with 871. At Hawthorne Elementary, enrollment is down from 557 in 2020 to 520 in 2021. Horace Mann Elementary is seeing the biggest drop, with 559 students, compared to last year’s 609. ●

# School Board Approves New Beverly Vista Assistant Principal



Assistant Principal Joe Little

Beverly Hills Unified School District welcomed its newest addition on Aug. 10 when the Board of Education approved the appointment of Beverly Vista Middle School Assistant Principal, Joe Little.

“I am honored and grateful to become the new Assistant Principal at Beverly Vista Middle School,” Little said in a statement. “This district has been a leader of what quality education looks like for students

for a very long time and I cannot wait to support and help grow that legacy at BVMS. I am excited to meet everybody that is a part of the great community at Beverly Vista Middle School.”

Little comes to Beverly Vista with a decade of experience. He previously worked at Animo Westside Middle School, a charter school in the Green Dot Public Schools network, where he taught as a history teacher and spent five years as an Assistant Principal.

“Mr. Little is an experienced middle school administrator who has impressive knowledge in the field of special education,” BHUSD Superintendent Dr. Michael Bregy said in a statement. “We look forward to welcoming him to the BVMS and wider BHUSD community.”

Before beginning his career in education, Little received a Masters of Arts in Education and Administration Credential from Loyola Marymount University and his Bachelor of Art in History and Teaching Credential from California State University Long Beach. Outside of his work in school, Little spends most of his time with his family, which includes a 2-year-old son, a dog Lucy, and wife Casie. Little will hit the ground running, starting in the new role on Aug. 16. ●

# Beverly Hills Seeks Public Input on Upcoming Labor Negotiations



The city of Beverly Hills is preparing to commence negotiations with the Municipal Employees Association Part-Time Unit, and the public is encouraged to provide feedback and input at a virtual City Council meeting. The meeting is scheduled for Aug. 17 at 7:00 p.m. In accordance with state law, the city participates in labor negotiations with its employee associations. The results of the negotiations process are written agreements or contracts reached between the city and the city employee associations. These agreements are referred to as a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

The Municipal Employees Association of Beverly Hills Part-Time Unit has an MOU

which expires on Oct. 8, 2021. The Aug. 17 meeting is the formal opportunity for the public to voice questions, concerns, and feedback to the City Council early in the negotiation process and prior to officially beginning the meet-and-confer process for a successor Memorandum of Understanding with the employee association. Following this public meeting and opportunity for input, the City Council will direct its labor negotiator regarding strategy and authority for the upcoming negotiations. Public comment may be provided virtually during the meeting at <https://beverlyhillsorg.zoom.us/my/bevpublic> (passcode: 90210). Prior to the meeting, written comments should be submitted to [cityclerk@beverlyhills.org](mailto:cityclerk@beverlyhills.org). In 2014, the Beverly Hills City Council adopted a Civic Openness in Negotiations “COIN” ordinance in order to provide additional impartiality and transparency to the collective bargaining process. As required by the “COIN” ordinance, this meeting provides the community an opportunity to provide the City Council with comments. ●

Beverly Hills

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## LA Artist Brings “Succulent Garden” Piano to City Hall

BY MICHAEL WITTNER



LA-based artist Laishan Mui Ito and her “Succulent Garden” piano in front of Beverly Hills City Hall

As a young girl in Hong Kong, artist Laishan Mui Ito got into a bad bus accident before an important piano recital. After over a month in the hospital, she wasn’t able to practice. But the date was already booked and her teacher told her she had to attend, even if it meant showing up at the grand recital hall underprepared and dressed in a hospital gown.

“The kids are all preppy, and they’re staring at me, like, what is this girl doing?” Mui Ito told the Courier. “That kind of stuck with me...I did pass, but I didn’t really feel

like I owned it or did my best...I didn’t continue my piano lessons from there.”

Three decades later, Mui Ito spent three weeks in a large room on Canon Drive getting to know every nook, cranny, and crevice of the piano she painted for the Sing For Hope Pianos program, which now adds an explosive burst of color to the walkway in front of the Crescent Drive entrance to Beverly Hills City Hall.

Mui Ito said she had a “full-circle moment” after adorning her piano with a garden of succulent plants, which to her

represent color, vitality, and resilience in a difficult time. She named the piano “Lola,” after the rosebud-shaped succulent variety that is her favorite.

Mui Ito has accomplished a lot since she last attempted to play. Born in Hong Kong, she moved to Los Angeles at age 11. She always knew that she loved art, but as she got older her parents pushed her toward a more stable career.

Mui Ito dutifully studied business administration at UC Riverside, but was uninspired. She began inching back towards her passion after seeing that the entomology department was looking for a part-time scientific illustrator. After years of meticulously drawing wasps, tiny crustaceans, and wingless female flies who wait on trees to be scooped up by winged males, her interest in art and nature were reignited.

Mui Ito later decided to parlay her new skills into graphic design, eventually working her way up to a Senior Graphic Designer at Nokia. After she had children, she began freelancing as a way to both further her career and spend time with her two children.

In 2018, Mui Ito became interested in public art after she saw an artist painting

utility boxes, a growing trend around Los Angeles. She did a bit of research and found that the City of Glendale was commissioning a utility box project. After bringing her trademark succulent plants to Glendale boxes, Mui Ito painted oranges, lemons, and trains in Azusa; birds, roses, and strawberries in Sherman Oaks; and hands and hearts intertwined in Burbank, among many others.

“Every project has its own story and experience, and I really enjoy being able to share my work,” she said. “Cities are quite open, as long as it’s community friendly. I either get approval or I don’t, so it forces me to trust my gut.”

Earlier this year, the Sing for Hope Pianos program emailed Mui Ito to inform her of an open call for local artists to paint pianos in Beverly Hills. Mui Ito proposed a garden of succulent plants, which she said helped her through the pandemic.

“I love the colors, the variety, and how resilient they are,” she said. “I have a little garden at home, and it really helped me think and gave me a break from the stress of COVID. I hope that whoever is playing feels like they’re in a succulent garden, and it will take their mind of whatever their worries and stresses are and enjoy music.” ●



## wellness wednesdays

Join Mayor Bob Wunderlich for 'Wellness Wednesdays,' a Mayoral Initiative that aims to inspire the community to get outside and participate in exercise classes, enjoy wholesome food options from local businesses and incorporate wellness into their lives.

**8-18-21 at 8am**

**La Cienega Tennis Center  
325 La Cienega Blvd.  
Beverly Hills, CA 90211**

**Pickleball Clinic** \*Limited equipment available

[beverlyhills.org/wellnesswednesdays](https://beverlyhills.org/wellnesswednesdays) | Questions can be directed to 310-285-1014 | #BHHealthyCity





Jake Manaster announced his run for Beverly Hills Treasurer on Aug. 12.

**(Jake Manaster continued from page 1)**

He served on the Beverly Hills Traffic and Parking Commission from 2014 to 2020 and chaired the Commission in 2016. He also served on the Beverly Hills Unified School District Board from 2009 to 2013, serving as President in 2012-13. During his tenure, the BHUSD Board created a district-wide \$10 million endowment reserve and helped stabilize a budget shortfall.

Manaster said he wants to use that financial acumen to help a city still recovering from the pandemic. "This last year and those soon to come have seen unprecedented challenges and extraordinary financial and social impacts," Manaster said in a statement. "As Treasurer, I intend to support the city's team in any way I can to accelerate the recovery

and bring access to resources. Due to the pandemic, many projects and initiatives were put on hold. Supporting city staff in their endeavor to carry out the wishes of the City Council while also keeping city coffers safe and protected is the goal."

Manaster said he is considering reinstating the Budget Review Committee, a defunct commission of Council-appointed residents with business background who review the city's budget. "Former Treasurer Eliot Finkel organized and led just such an instrumental committee as the Great Recession hit, and with the challenges of COVID and our new need to budget for a new future, the expertise of Council-appointed former city officials seems to carry particular importance at this moment," Manaster told the Courier.

Manaster may be running against current Treasurer Howard Fisher, who has not yet announced whether he will run for reelection in 2022. He has received endorsements from current BHUSD Board Members Noah Margo and Tristen Walker-Schuman, former Board Member Howard Goldstein, former Councilmember and Mayor Les Bronte, and others.

In addition to his work with the city, Manaster is an attorney specializing in business, entertainment, and intellectual property law. He served many roles at the Sony Corporation, including executive posts in corporate development, finance, and legal affairs. He also served as Acquisitions Vice President for ClickStar, an online movie distribution cofounded by Morgan Freeman.

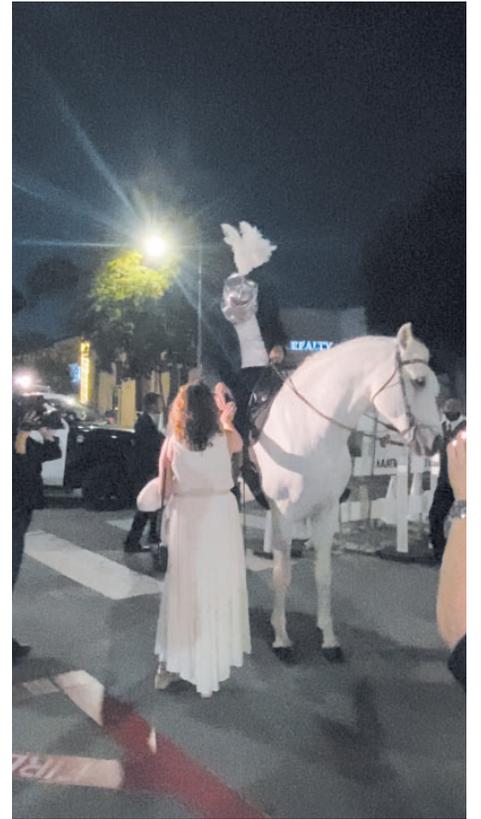
## White Knight at Spago

BY BIANCA HEYWARD



A white horse outside Spago restaurant on the night of Aug. 9 marked 30 years of marriage for one local couple. Wearing a knight's helmet and a tuxedo, David Samuels rode horseback down Canon Drive to surprise his wife, Patti, by recreating his proposal to her 32 years ago at Griffith Park. He obtained a permit from the city and received a police escort to Spago, where his wife, a longtime former Spago employee, was having dinner with a group of friends to celebrate her 55th birthday.

"Honestly, he's very romantic like this all the time," Samuels told the Courier. ●



He serves on the board of directors for several businesses, trade organizations, and nonprofits.

Manaster holds a BA from UCLA and a JD from Case Western Reserve University

Gund School of Law. He briefly served as an adjunct law professor at Case Western.

He lives in Beverly Hills with his wife Lynda and their two children, both graduates of Beverly Hills public schools. ●



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**(Vaccination Requirements continued from page 1)**

The city of Los Angeles is considering a similar proposal. On Aug. 4, L.A. City Council President Nury Martinez and Councilmember Mitch O’Farrell introduced a motion to require vaccine proof at restaurants, bars, gyms, stores, spas, movie theaters, concert venues, and sporting events. The motion passed unanimously on Aug. 11. Now, city attorneys will draft legislation to come back before the Council.

While the City of Los Angeles and the county have begun openly exploring increased restrictions for unvaccinated people, the Beverly Hills City Council has yet to meet to address the matter. “With the spread of the Delta variant and constantly evolving guidelines, the City Council continues to closely monitor these issues,” Beverly Hills Chief Communications Officer Keith Sterling told the Courier on Aug. 12.

On Aug. 11, Newsom introduced toughest-in-the-nation requirements mandating that school employees must either be vaccinated or submit to weekly COVID-19 testing. On the same day, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) began requiring visitors to general acute care hospitals, skilled nursing, and intermediate care facilities in California to show either proof of vaccination or documentation of a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours of the hospital visit.

“We are eager to see the written plan from the state,” BHUSD Superintendent Dr. Michael Bregy said in a statement to the Courier. “Until then, we are having positive

discussions with our labor partners to ensure we achieve our common goal to keep our schools open with the least amount of disruption to the continuity of in-person instruction in the safest way possible.”

Alana Castanon, president of the Beverly Hills Education Association, the union representing BHUSD employees, told the Courier that the union “intends on complying with all state and county health orders.”

“BHEA members want to be in our classrooms with our students,” she wrote in an email. “The governor’s announcement yesterday is supported by the California Teachers Association, requiring vaccine verification or testing for all school staff as an appropriate next step to ensure the safety of our school communities and to protect our youngest learners under 12 who are not yet vaccine eligible from this highly contagious Delta variant.”

The Beverly Hills Unified School District said in an Aug. 6 email that it does not require COVID-19 vaccinations, in line with Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Public Health) guidelines. Students must provide a negative COVID-19 test if they have traveled outside California 10 days prior to starting school, in addition to complying with other Public Health regulations.

Starting Aug. 11, anyone visiting a medical facility in California must show either proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours, according to a new order from the California Department of Public Health.

“The more individuals get vaccinated,

the closer we get to progressing beyond this pandemic,” the department wrote in an Aug. 5 statement when the new policy was announced. “And the more people are vaccinated in any given setting, the safer that setting becomes.”

A steady rise in COVID-19 cases across LA County – 2,622 new cases were recorded on Aug. 10 – has caused countywide hospitalizations to double in just 15 days, from 745 on July 24 to 1,503 on Aug. 8. Statewide, COVID hospitalizations have seen a similar spike, from 2,981 hospitalized COVID-positive patients on July 25 to 5,973 on Aug. 8.

This latest wave has been driven by the highly contagious Delta variant. “Every time that we leave the window open here in the U.S., or in the world, and we are not being careful with these viruses, they tend to mutate, they change, they try to adapt to us and they become very efficient,” Dr. Ilan Shapiro, Medical Director of Health Education and Wellness for Altamed, told the Courier.

Given the current spread of COVID-19, Dr. Shapiro stressed the importance of getting more vaccines into more arms to prevent the mutation of another, possibly more virulent and deadly strain. “One of these days, it could be the epsilon or lambda variant,” he said. “That’s why it’s so important to layer as many public health barriers between us and COVID-19.”

Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, the two largest hospitals near Beverly Hills, have both confirmed that they are complying with the new

orders. However, while UCLA specifies that it will accept a negative COVID test acquired within 72 hours of the visit as an alternative to official vaccination verification, Cedars-Sinai does not.

When asked whether a negative COVID test would grant entry into Cedars-Sinai, a spokesperson told the Courier, “The inpatient visitation policy is exactly as it appears on the site now.”

Suitable forms of proof include a CDC-issued Vaccination Record Card, a WHO Yellow Card, a photo of a Vaccination Record card, documentation of the vaccination from a health care provider, or a digital record with a QR code. All forms of ID must include the visitor’s name, the type of vaccine, and the date of the vaccine administration. Digital records must also include the visitor’s date of birth.

Cedars-Sinai does not allow visitors for patients with moderate or high suspicion of having COVID-19, unless a clinical team considers the patient to be end of life. In that case, the patient will be allowed one visitor a day for two hours. UCLA Health does not specify their policy on visitation of COVID-positive patients and did not respond to questions.

Visitors can obtain a digital copy of their vaccination records online at <https://myvaccinerecord.cdph.ca.gov>.



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**PURPLE (D LINE) EXTENSION TRANSIT PROJECT**  
Section 2 – Beverly Hills Update

**Construction Update**  
Excavation is complete and station construction is underway at the Wilshire/Rodeo Station.

**TRAFFIC ALERT**  
Wilshire Bl will retain two lanes of traffic in each direction from 7am – 8:15pm.

**MEETING HOURS**  
Community Construction Update webinars will be held from 12 – 1pm on July 7, 2021



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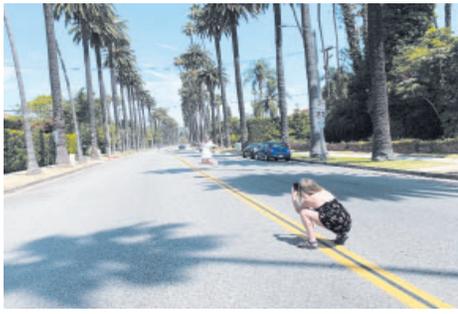
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Tourists are drawn to the street's towering palm trees. Photo by Lisa Bloch

**(Canon Drive continued from page 1)**

They find their way to this stretch of Canon Drive through various means: its proximity to Beverly Gardens Park, celebrities posting similar photos on social media, and online guides citing the street as one of the best places to photograph near palm trees. What's more, the street offers a generous amount of free, two-hour curbside parking.

"Every year it gets worse - it's just out of control," Canon Drive resident Angela Sassounian told the Courier, noting that she first observed the phenomenon around three years ago. "First they would stand in the middle of the street, and it was fine. They started sitting down on the street and I'm like, OK, this is really dangerous. Then when I see people lying in the middle of the street, and the cars are zooming by and the cars honk at them and they don't care, it's really heartbreaking."

These actions constitute two possible violations of the California Vehicle Code,

according to Beverly Hills Police Department Acting Captain Max Subin. Section 21950 (b) states: "Every pedestrian upon a roadway at any point other than within a marked crosswalk or within an unmarked crosswalk at an intersection shall yield the right-of-way to all vehicles upon the roadway so near as to constitute an immediate hazard."

Meanwhile, CVC Section 21954 (a) states: "No pedestrian may suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and walk or run into the path of a vehicle that is so close as to constitute an immediate hazard. No pedestrian may unnecessarily stop or delay traffic while in a marked or unmarked crosswalk."

Subin told the Courier that he is unaware of any citations related to these violations. Police records indicate that the department received five complaints related to "traffic hazards" between May 4 and July 4 of 2021 on the 500 to 600 block of North Canon Drive, but no citations were issued. The Courier is still awaiting data on whether any citations related to these code violations have ever been issued on that particular block of Canon Drive.

An online crime mapping service does not list any pedestrian violations in that area.

Sassounian told the Courier that she has seen police cars drive around the visitors while they are in the middle of the street, though other neighbors did not recall seeing that. In general, even though Canon Drive residents told the Courier that they disapprove of the tourists' actions, they have never called the police or personally asked the tourists to stop. None of the residents

said they have contacted their neighbors or city officials to see if additional safety measures, like an on-duty police officer or speed bumps, could be implemented.

Similarly, all the tourists with whom the Courier spoke said that they have never been reprimanded by either police or residents.

Even though the speed limit on Canon Drive is only 25 miles per hour, cars often race by at twice the speed. Although no accidents have yet been reported, one certainly appears within the realm of possibility. In that unfortunate event, there will be enough blame to go around.

Even though visitors are violating a law, drivers nonetheless have a duty to exercise "due care," according to the California Vehicle Code. "Subdivision (b) does not relieve a driver of a vehicle from the duty of exercising due care for the safety of any pedestrian with any marked crosswalk or within any unmarked crosswalk at an intersection," reads Section 21950 (d).

"Clearly, if you're going into the middle of a wide street like that where cars are driving down, you're doing something negligent or dangerous," Simon Esfandi, a personal injury attorney with the Compass Law Group of Beverly Hills and Los Angeles, told the Courier. "But no matter what, the DMV requires that a driver driving down the street is always on the lookout for pedestrians or anything else that could be dangerous. You can't just say, oh that pedestrian shouldn't be there, so I'm going to keep going. You've got to be able to get the brakes, be driving at a reasonable speed, and giving a proper

lookout."

Esfandi told the Courier that it could be more difficult to find the city liable. "If there are safety measures that could be implemented and they are aware of the issue and they didn't make simple safety measures, then you could potentially hold the city liable," he said. Esfandi added that as a lifelong Beverly Hills resident he has personally observed the Canon Drive phenomenon many times. "It's hard to think of what safety measures they could really do. They're very wide streets there, they've already got a low speed limit. The issue is that people speed down those streets a lot. That's the type of thing where you get an expert to look at how the streets are constructed, and what kind of safety measures could be done, and what the city could have done that it didn't."

Under California's comparative negligence rules, even if the city is found to be just 10% liable, the sum could be "astronomical." In 2009, for example, the city of Los Angeles paid \$4.9 million to a bicyclist who fell over an unguarded curb, rendering him paraplegic.

"Usually we're guided by what the insurance for the party has and their limits, and you usually max them out when you've got such a catastrophic case, but when you've got a city entity there's no insurance limit," Esfandi said. "The city has very, very deep pockets, especially Beverly Hills. If they were to be found percentage liable and you've got a huge earning, it could be very heavy against them." ●



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*Publishers*

Lisa Bloch  
John Bendheim



*Chief Content Officer*

Ana Figueroa



*Staff Writers*

Samuel Braslow

Bianca Heyward

Michael Wittner



*Contributing Writer*

Hailey Esses



*Advertising Directors*

Rod Pingul

Evelyn A. Portugal

Patricia A. Wilkins

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# Birthdays



**KANWARJIT SINGH**  
August 13



**JOANIE BLACK**  
August 14



**NADINE WATT**  
August 14



**HALLE BERRY**  
August 14



**MADELEINE GUSSMAN**  
August 15



**JENNIFER LAWRENCE**  
August 15



**NOELLE-FREEMAN**  
August 16



**ANGELA BASSETT**  
August 16



## Astrology

BY HOLIDAY MATIS

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY** (Aug. 13). A spiritual growth spurt will blossom in the realm of creativity and wisdom. You could measure this by the shift in your perspective. Big goals get suddenly more achievable, people more likeable, life more enjoyable. You'll knock out five projects and then find yourself in a position to show others how to net similar results. Libra and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 39, 2, 20, 11 and 15.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). Be judicious with your generosity. Give more than expected but not so much that your recipient feels unworthy, uncomfortable or overly indebted.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). You're brave. Love yourself for it. Many wouldn't even attempt what you've devoted so much life to. Give yourself credit, and let the confidence spill over to other areas of life.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). Is it possible to be extremely moderate? As any jumbo shrimp lover can attest, just because it's an oxymoron

doesn't make it a bad idea. Good fortune follows your embrace of life's contradictions.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). Gatherings highlight different personality facets. Grouped around a table, you'll learn new things about people you thought you already knew everything about.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). Are you making choices or being manipulated into decisions that don't benefit you? Follow through with a conscious though slightly absurd choice to assert your free will.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your eyes are bright, and you're looking out for yourself and everyone around you as you strive to bring the higher energies of grace, courtesy, attentiveness and wit to this scene.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your politeness knows no bounds, which is why it takes you a minute to realize you're bored with a situation. Don't worry. The slightest shift will produce a radical difference and bring back the excitement.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your emotional IQ is soaring high. Emotions enter the realm, and you respond. It doesn't matter to you who they belong to; you'll savor the positive ones and mitigate the

negative.  
**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Before you jump into the next thing, you'll spend some time contemplating your options. You'll think about what the people around you need and how you might fulfill it.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Because you aim to exceed expectations, you'll make sure not to set them so high that you'd be challenged to fulfill them. In fact, the best-case scenario is a situation in which you have no expectation at all.  
**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).

Not everyone is happy when you act on your own behalf. Some will think your move is an affront to their wishes and preferences. Don't agree to this logic. You can be (SET ITAL)for(END ITAL) yourself without being (SET ITAL)against(END ITAL) them.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). Take a relationship out of context and it will change entirely. This can be accomplished by moving things to a different environment, tackling a unique task together or introducing unusual motivations.



Polo is a 3-yr.-old Husky mix who weighs 60 lbs. He is missing one leg, but that doesn't slow him down. He is great with kids and other dogs and would love to find a family to love. If you can help Polo, please contact Shelter of Hope at 805-379-3538.  
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**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2021156718**

The following is/are doing business as: MGI INVESTMENTS, LLC 1801 Century Park East 25th Fl., Los Angeles, CA 90067; MGI Investments, LLC 1801 Century Park East 25th Fl., Los Angeles, CA 90067; The business is conducted by: A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, registrant(s) has begun to transact business under the name(s) listed July 2016: Theingi Cossar, CEO: Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: July 12, 2021; Published: July 23, 30, August 06, 13, 2021 LACC N/C

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2021156720**

The following is/are doing business as: 1) BENMO 2) BENMO USA 6646 Colgate Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90048; Benmo LLC 6646 Colgate Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90048; The business is conducted by: A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, registrant(s) has begun to transact business under the name(s) listed August 2019: Roy Benmoshe, CEO: Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: July 12, 2021; Published: July 23, 30, August 06, 13, 2021 LACC N/C

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2021156724**

The following is/are doing business as: DAVID J. BAILEY DBA WASHINGTON PLACE APARTMENTS 439 N. Canon Dr. #300, Beverly Hills, CA 90210; David J. Bailey 439 N. Canon Dr. #300, Beverly Hills, CA 90210; The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL, registrant(s) has begun to transact business under the name(s) listed January 2000: David J. Bailey, Owner: Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: July 12, 2021; Published: July 23, 30, August 06, 13, 2021 LACC N/C

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2021 144644**

The following is/are doing business as: 1) SNT PERFORMANCE 2) STREET AND TRACK PERFORMANCE 843 Florence Ave. Los Angeles, CA 90044; Sergio Huapaya 3843 Florence Ave. Los Angeles, CA 90044; The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL, registrant(s) has begun to transact business under the name(s) listed June 2021: Sergio Huapaya, President: Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: June 29, 2021; Published: July 30, August 06, 13, 20, 2021 LACC N/C

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

CASE NO: 21STCP02231 ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

In the Matter of the petition of:

Sherman Edward Jackson To all interested person(s): Petitioner:

Sherman Edward Jackson filed a petition with the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 111 North Hill St., Los Angeles, CA 90012, Stanley Mosk Courthouse, on July 12, 2021

for a Decree changing names as follows:

Present Name: Sherman Edward Jackson Proposed Name: Derrick David NoHeart

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. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: August 23, 2021 Time: 10:00am Dept: 74 Room: 735

The address of the court is: Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 111 North Hill St., Los Angeles, CA 90012, Stanley Mosk Courthouse.

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

Signed: Sherman Edward Jackson Judge of the Superior Court Michelle Williams Court, Sherri R. Carter, Executive Officer/Clerk, By: Nick Miramontes, Deputy Clerk

Dated: July 12, 2021 Published: July 16, 23, 30, August 06, 2021 Beverly Hills Courier

**NOTICE INVITING PROPOSALS**

**Project:** Beverly Hills High School South Campus Modernization Temp P.O.C. Power to Swim Gym (B3/B4), Utility Relocation Away from Retaining Walls, Mega Trench Water / Power, Sanitary Sewer & Storm Drain B1 to Moreno

**Owner:** Beverly Hills Unified School District

Lease / Lease Back Contractor: ProWest Constructors, CSLB #: 706619

**PROPOSAL RELEASE #1**

**PROPOSAL DATE: SEPTEMBER 7, 2021  
PROPOSAL TIME: 2:00 PM**

**PROPOSAL PACKAGES**

- 02 SWPPP / Erosion Control Implementation
- 03 SWPPP / Erosion Control Monitoring
- 04 Sound Blanket Fencing
- 05 Survey & Layout
- 06 Temp Power & Relocation Site Electrical
- 07 Mega Trench Site Electrical
- 08 Site Utilities

Submit sealed proposals to: ProWest Constructors, 22710 Palomar Street, Wil-domar, CA 92595. For Proposals in the amount of \$150,000 and over, a Proposal Bond in the amount of 10% of the Lump Sum Base Price shall accompany the Proposal. For Lump Sum Base Price amounts of less than \$150,000, Proposal Bond shall not be required.

**Proposal Documents available August 10, 2021** at IB Reprographics (951) 682-1850, www.ibrepro.com and www.BidMail.com.

**One non-mandatory Job Walk has been scheduled for Wednesday, August 18, 2021 at 8:00 AM.** ATTENDANCE IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. Participants shall meet at the ProWest jobsite trailer at Beverly Hills High School, 241 S. Moreno Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90212.

This project extends Temporary Power from Buildings B3 and B4 to the Swim Gym, Football Field, and Track area to allow existing power to be relocated away from the new retaining wall #2. The Permanent Power and Water Mega Trench will be constructed along Heath Avenue. The permanent power and water will feed into the future Building C, the Swim Gym and Athletic Fields. The scope of work also includes extending a new sanitary sewer and storm drain line from Building B1 to Moreno Drive, SWPPP implementation, excavation and back fill for utilities, and saw cut removal and patch back of existing A/C paving.

**Prequalification of MEP Subcontractors.** Each prospective Electrical, Mechanical, or Plumbing ("MEP") subcontractor holding C-4, C-7, C-10, C-16, C-20, C-34, C-36, C-38, C-42, C-43 and/or C-46 specialty licenses (as defined in Public Contract Code section 20111.6) planning to participate in bidding on certain public projects to be undertaken by the District, must be prequalified prior to submitting bids for such public projects. Pursuant to Public Contract Code Section 20111.6 bidders on all public projects using funds received pursuant to the Leroy F. Greene School Facilities ACT of 1998 or any funds received from any future state school bond that involve a projected public project expenditure of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) or more must be pre-qualified.

The purpose of the proposal is to enable ProWest Constructors to select the most qualified firm that provides the best value to ProWest Constructors and the District and with whom ProWest Constructors will subcontract. Based on the received proposals, ProWest Constructors will create a list of the highest-ranking respondents, based on a best value selection criteria and will identify the selected firm(s) to enter negotiations for specific scopes of work to be subcontracted. Formal award of any subcontracts will not occur unless and until the District has reviewed and approved the scope and price of the subcontracted work.

ProWest Constructors reserves the right to request additional information at any time, which in its sole opinion, is necessary to assure that a proposer's competence, business organization, and financial resources are adequate to perform the requested work. ProWest Constructors also reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any informality or nonsubstantive irregularity in any proposal.

Contact Lease / Lease Back Contractor, ProWest Constructors – (951) 678-1038 for further information.

Published August 6, 13, 2021

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**NOTICE**— Fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (See Section 14400, et seq., Business and Professions Code).

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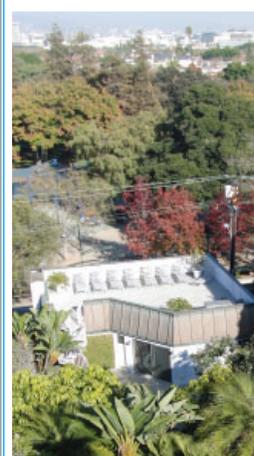
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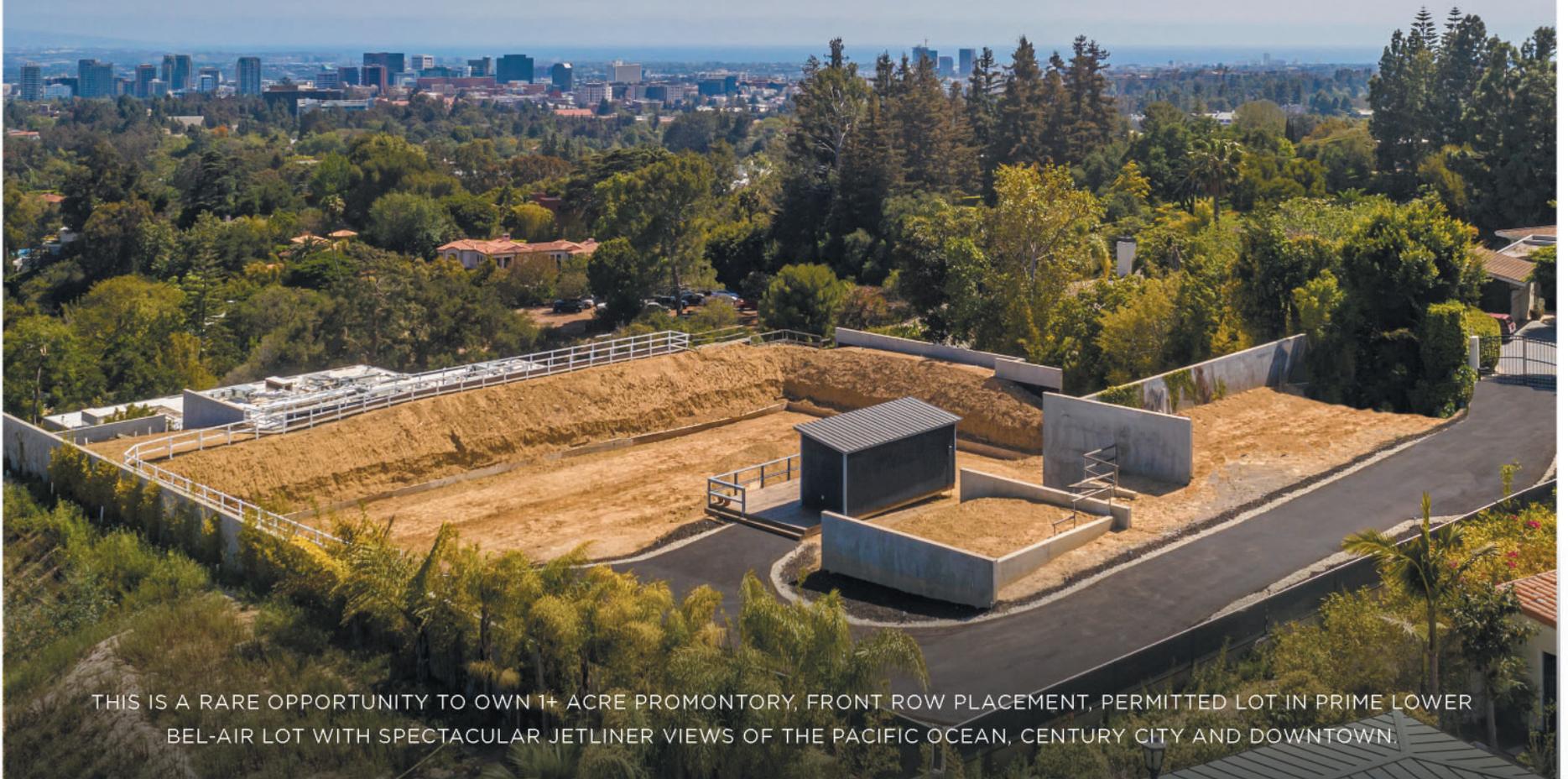
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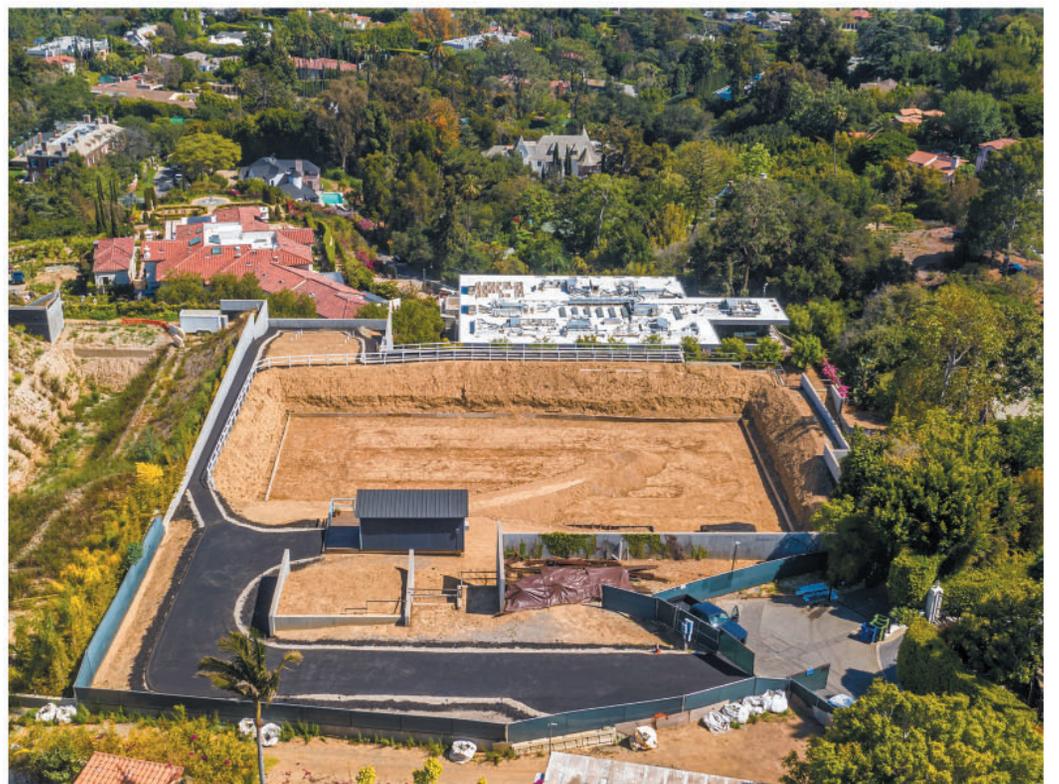
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