New City Budget Brings More Enforcement to Beachwood
By Daniel Langhome, Ledger Contributing Writer

HOLLYWOOD HILLS—After intensive lobbying by resi-
dents, the Los Angeles Police Dept. staffed additional pa-
trols and traffic enforcement in the Hollywood Hills over the
recent 4th of July long holiday, including in the residential
neighborhood of Beachwood Canyon—sometimes known as “Hollywoodland”—which sits in the shadow of the Hol-
lywood Sign.

The additional presence was made possible by more than
$1 million in year-round fund-
ing earmarked for traffic en-
forcement in the neighborhoods surrounding the Hollywood
Sign in this year’s city budget.

Hollywood Sign enforce-
ment funding is relatively new
to the city budget. Previously, the area’s city councilmember, David Ryu, had to cobble to-
gether funding for enforce-
ment from his discretionary funds, resulting in a “patch-
work” or “band-aid” approach to security in the area, accord-
ing to Ryu spokesperson Mark Pampaanin.

Just over $1 million in
Hollywood Sign funding was added to the budget for the
2018-19 fiscal year, which ended June 30th. That fund-
ing was upped to $1.3 million for this year’s budget.

“[Last year] was actually the first time the Hollywood
Sign has ever received a line item in the budget in city his-
tory,” Ryu said. "This is a significant increase, as Security
is an important priority in the Hollywood Hills neigh-
borhood.”

Some Schools Behind on Vaccines
By Sarah Favor, Ledger Contributing Writer

Amid a recent measles outbreak in Los Angeles County the likely tightening of state law regarding immu-
nizations, the latest state data show that several local schools fall below the 95% threshold required to reach so-called “herd immunity” for diseases when it comes to kindergartener vaccinations.

When students enroll in school, they must show proof that they were vaccinated against diseases such as po-
io, chickenpox and measles, though a doctor may exempt them if there is a medical rea-
son to do so.

Both public and private schools are required to report how many students have been vaccinated to the state Dept.

SCHOOL NEWS:

Behind on Vaccines

SLNC Reaches Out to Latinx Residents
By Daniel Langhome, Ledger Contributing Writer

SILVER LAKE—The Silver Lake Neighborhood Coun-
cil (SLNC) has made several recent overtures to the area’s Latin American community, including the July formation of its Latinx Representation Com-
mittee—named for a gender-neutral alternative to “Latino” or “Latina”—which will hold its meetings in Span-
ish; an upcoming town hall meeting on immigrant rights during ICE interactions; and the printing of a new Spanish-
language banner for display at neighborhood council events.

The SLNC’s governing
ECHO PARK

Echo Park Rising: Dancing and Music in the Streets

By Kathy A. McDonald, Ledger Columnist

Parking lots, side streets and many of the storefronts of Echo Park will welcome the city’s largest free music festi-
val, Echo Park Rising (EPR) throughout the weekend of
August 15th – 18th. Produced by the Echo Park Chamber of
Commerce with curato-
rial guidance and sponsorship
from Spaceland Presents, EPR
will once again take over ap-
proximately 60 businesses
throughout Echo Park and
transform them into show-
cases for up-and-coming local
bands and indie headliners.

“It’s a community effort
and neighborhood event that
celebrates creativity and the
diversity of Echo Park,” said
Spaceland Presents vice-presi-
dent of talent, Elizabeth “Liz”
Garo.

Now in its 9th year, atten-
dance varies but Garo pre-
dicts about 7,000 people per
day with Saturday expected
to be the busiest. In 2018, there
were 600 performances and
activities, from music to read-
ings, across dozens of venues.

“Over the years the event
has stretched out and now goes
down Sunset Boulevard as far
as [the restaurant] Winsome,”
said Garo.

This year it will extend
further west to close, to Silver
Lake Boulevard, according to
grounder for the festival with extended hours
(Oistrch Farm, Bar Calo)
and food and drink specials (Brite
Spot). At Sunset Boulevard’s
El Prado Bar, look for DJ sets
and a relief spot with robust air
conditioning and cold wines,
per new owner Nick Fisher.
Subliminal Project, also on
Sunset Boulevard, is official-
ly participating for the first
time and will present visual
artist Ted Feighan’s OVER-
GROWN: New Works along
with a musical performance
by Feighan, who performs un-
der the alias, Monster Rally on
August 17th.

According to Garo, Echo
Park Rising began as a modest
neighborhood venue when now-Iconic neighborhood
venue the Echo was still a
relatively new enterprise.

Change—as seen in the area’s gentrification, new busi-
nesses, retail and commercial
development and rising prop-
ety values—has since come to
Echo Park. Notably, the Echo/
Echoplex and its parent com-
pany Spaceland Presents were
sold to live entertainment gi-
ant Live Nation in May. The
sale has not impacted this
year’s festival.

Also in May, Sunset Bou-
levard’s Lot 1 Cafe—a fixture
along
GROWN: New Works
artist Ted Feighan’s

 Corrections & Amplifications

Last month’s “People in My Neighborhood” feature about
Barrel of Monkeys creator Milton Dinhofer incorrectly
indicated the department store Woolworth’s carried
an early version of Barrel of Monkeys called Chimp-to-
Chimp. The store actually carried a different invention
of Dinhofer’s, the Sip-n-See straw. We regret the error.

Los Feliz Ledger

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How Do You Get Your H2O?

By Michael Darling, Ledger Contributing Writer

Summer’s here and you need to stay hydrated. How are you getting your water? Filtered, bottled, or straight from the tap?

“I use the tap. I don’t like wasting plastic bottled water and I’m too lazy to install a filter.” – Alex S., outside Skylight Books on Vermont

“I use a Britta filter that you attach to the faucet.” – Dean K., outside Skylight Books on Vermont

“We have a fridge with an in-door filter. I like having ice and water on hand. It’s easier than having to install a faucet filter that could fall off and I don’t want to use bottled water because the plastic’s not good for the environment.” – Mike A., outside Skylight Books on Vermont

“I actually don’t like water! I have a whole house Pelican water filtration system in my home so I have fresh water when I bathe or drink water. I don’t really drink water though. I’ll get bottled water, the pH balanced alkali water, but how do I stay hydrated? I drink wine.” – Terry M., outside Sumi’s on Vermont

“I drink it from the tap a lot, but my roommate and I have a 5-gallon water jug that we refill from a water supply on the westside.” – Caitlin A., outside the Skylight Books Annex on Vermont

“I drink tap water, drink bottled water, but I usually try not to use plastic and I filch water from the office water cooler for my tea.” – Joseph K., outside Sumi’s on Vermont

“I have a thermos that I fill from the faucet.” – Annie M., outside Sumi’s on Vermont

“It’s faucet water, but it’s run through a Britta pitcher. My roommate got it, so we use it.” – Jahm F., outside La La Ling on Vermont

Who’s the Best of Silver Lake?

NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN!

August
Nominate your favorite businesses at BestOfSilverLake.com

September
Vote for the best Silver Lake Chamber businesses

December
BEST OF SILVER LAKE GALA: Comedians, Government reps and Business reps honor the greater Silver Lake community’s finest

BUSINESSES:
Join the Chamber by August 31 to be on the ballot!

Chamber Founder, Dr. Cheryl Revkin DC accepts award for Friends of Silver Lake Library.

L.R. Emow, Bubly Luna of Comic Cure, President Natalie Freidberg, Comedians James P. Connelly and Fritz Coleman, Leslie Knauer of Sunset Junction Band.
City Aims to Wrangle “Wild, Wild West” of Scooters
by by Carl Robinette, Ledger Contributing Writer

Riders of app-rented e-scooters and bicycles may soon see tighter regulations and stiffer penalties after the Los Angeles City Council recently called for tighter regulations of such dockless vehicles, which are owned by private companies, but stored and operated on public property.

The council action comes on the heels of a June report on scooter usage in the city from the Los Angeles Dept. of Transportation (LADOT). According to the agency, the Los Angeles Fire Dept. (LAFD) responded to 160 emergency calls involving scooter accidents during the first five months of 2019, 59 of which required an ambulance.

The Los Angeles Police Dept. (LAPD) also reported 52 traffic collisions involving dockless vehicles, which required an ambulance.

The city currently requires dockless riders to be at least 18 years old and have a driver's license. Riding on sidewalks, carrying additional passengers and exceeding 15 miles per hour are prohibited.

Additionally, some have voiced concern that devices improperly parked in pedestrian paths and traffic lanes create safety risks. Others believe scooters left on private property, including in front of homes.

“I’ve seen or experienced violations of the entire spectrum of prohibitions set out in the rules and guidelines,” said local resident Mark Steinberg.

About 17,500 app-rented vehicles are deployed citywide, and the city received over 3,000 service requests in the first half of the year, the majority of which were for improperly parked scooters, according to an LADOT report.

In a letter to City Council, "I’ve seen scores of illegally parked and illegally operated scooters.”

About 17,500 app-rented vehicles are deployed citywide, and the city received over 3,000 service requests in the first half of the year, the majority of which were for improperly parked scooters, according to the LADOT report.

Ci Council District 4 (CD4)—which includes Los Feliz, the Hollywood Hills and Silver Lake—had nearly 200 such requests, with nearly 4,000

visually filed a motion aimed at banning dockless vehicles from his district, which includes a portion of downtown Los Angeles, said the rise of scooters has created a lawless, "wild, wild west” situation.

"One day, these scooters just showed up in my district and disrupted it,” Cedillo said at a June City Council meeting. "There’s no rules and regulations, and [senior citizens] are very concerned about this. We have incredible density on some of the most dangerous streets.”

Despite resistance by some, dockless mobility devices like scooters have been lauded for increasing access to transportation in underserved communities and decreasing reliance on cars in the city.

Councilmember Mike Bonin, who chairs the city’s transportation committee, defended the push to regulate the devices, which he said will prevent the aforementioned "wild, wild west” situation.

“Those are thousands of riders now using these scooters, so it’s more important than ever to understand their impact on public health,” the study’s lead author, Tarak Trivedi, said in a statement.

Los Feliz Ledger
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(Corner of Vermont & Fountain)
### UNIFIED STATES CONGRESS

**Addressing the Humanitarian Crisis At Our Southern Border**

By Rep. Adam Schiff, U.S. House of Representatives

No showers. Standing room only cells. Outbreaks of scabies, shingles and chickenpox. Foul-smelling water and inedible food. Allegations of sexual assault, abuse and retaliation.

What’s happening at our border is a national tragedy and a humanitarian crisis that must be addressed immediately. The inhumane and dangerous conditions at migrant detention facilities shock the conscience, particularly when it comes to children denied adequate hygiene, nutrition and care.

There is a pressing need for additional funding to house and care for the large number of migrants arriving at our border seeking refuge or asylum. The President has repeatedly cast these migrants as dangerous criminals, but his characterization couldn’t be further from the truth: these are among the most vulnerable people on the planet.

Furthermore, seeking asylum is an internationally protected human right—not a crime—and the families and children fleeing poverty, violence and disaster in their home countries deserve to await processing in spaces that are clean, safe and humane. And once they are processed, we should invest in proven monitoring systems that allow asylum seekers to be released as they await a court hearing.

Last month, Congress passed a bill to provide emergency funding to improve conditions at these detention centers. This bill alone is not enough and I voted for an alternative offered by House Democrats that would have attached stricter requirements to the funding. But it is an important step to help alleviate the suffering while we continue to hold the Trump Administration accountable for its cruel and incompetent treatment of migrants.

We must continue to shine a bright light on the conditions at the border and continue to highlight the broad issues in our immigration system, which have brought us to this breaking point.

This Administration has created more problems than solutions by cutting aid to Central American countries, worsening the domestic problems that cause so many people to flee to the United States. And once they arrive, our immigration system is woefully unprepared to process this influx of asylum cases in a manner that prioritizes both national security and human rights, which need not be mutually exclusive.

The deeply disturbing images and reports from detention centers along the border don’t mark the beginning of a crisis. They highlight the grave consequences of an immigration system that has been broken for years, exacerbated by an Administration that has brought unprecedented cruelty into the equation. It is long past time for comprehensive, compassionate, comprehensive immigration reform—and it is my hope that the urgency of this moment will inspire my colleagues across the aisle to find the political will to do so.

For a nation that proclaims: “Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,” we have fallen tragically short of our promise to those seeking a better life on our shores.

The Trump administration’s treatment of migrants has been appalling—this is not who we are as a nation, and it must come to an end.

### CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLY

**Are We Prepared?**

By California Assemblymember Laura Friedman

The hottest, driest season of the year has just begun and it’s already guaranteed to be a long one. With extended periods of hot, dry weather and our record vegetation bloom this spring, we have the ingredients for a potentially rough wildfire season.

Considering many communities devastated by the most recent fires are still struggling in their recovery efforts, I cannot help but ask myself: what can we do to be as prepared as possible?

There are many factors that determine whether a home survives a wildfire, including when it was built and a variety of home-hardening techniques, such as installing ember resistant vents.

However, we learned from recent wildfires, like the Woolsey and Camp fires, that one of the most important techniques is “defensible space,” defined by Cal Fire as “the buffer you create between a building on your property and the grass, trees, shrubs, or any wild land area that surrounds it.”

Experts say defensible space is essential to improving the likelihood a home will survive a wildfire, as evidenced by areas hit hardest by wildfires, where neighborhoods are almost completely destroyed except for one home.

This year, I authored AB 1516, a measure that will improve defensible space requirements for property owners. The measure has passed the Assembly and is making great progress in the Senate. I also secured $5 million in this year’s budget to assist low-income households, the elderly, and other Californians with defensible space compliance.

I know for homeowners the task of making their property more resistant to wildfires can be challenging. But we have to consider where we are: over 100 Californians have died from wildfires over the last two years and in 2017 and 2018, over three million acres burned in high-severity wildfires, destroying over 50,000 structures.

Communities like ours should be the most concerned. A large portion of our district, including the Hollywood Hills, most of the Crescenta Valley, and all of the City of La Cañada Flintridge are in zones deemed the most at risk for wildfires and severe ones at that.

It is not a question of if, but when a fire will strike in LA County. Communities like ours that have extensive vegetation that dries out in the summer heat, are especially susceptible. But true wildfire resilience requires community involvement. It takes only one out-of-compliance property to put entire an entire neighborhood at risk. The good news is we already have a culture of awareness, togetherness and collective responsibility: Our community has proven time and again to place safety as a priority of paramount importance.

I am challenging all of us to educate ourselves on the best practices and to make our community as fire-resilient and prepared as possible. For my part, I will continue to focus my work in the legislature to make communities safer and to ensure that everyone has the resources and information necessary.

Reach me at my District Office at (818) 558-3043 or by sending an email to Assembly-member.Friedman@assembly.ca.gov.

### COUNCIL DISTRICT 4

**Unlocking the Rowena Reservoir**

By Los Angeles City Councilmember David E. Ryu

When I was growing up, my siblings and I didn’t have a yard to play in. From the small apartment that we shared with our parents and grandmother just south of Los Feliz, we had access to a sidewalk on one side and a concrete wall on the other.

Space to play was not something my parents, who juggled many jobs at once to keep a roof over our head, could really afford to give us. But I don’t need research to enjoy simple pleasures of a sun-dappled walk and fresh-cut grass.

There are mountains of research showing the benefits that parks and open spaces have on mental health, especially the health of children. But I don’t need research—I just need to visit a Los Angeles City Park to see those benefits in action.

Investing in our parks, as well as expanding park access and equity, is personal for me. It’s why I have been focused on improving parks in our city for years.

When the archivist relocated from New York, she researched and found a perfect fit with the LFIA’s History Committee. Haberle joined the board several years ago.

Mica Campbell, who works in real estate, will serve as recording secretary. She moved to Los Feliz a decade ago by way of New York and Ohio. Campbell also heads the LFIA’s membership committee.

Los Angeles native Don Seligman, who’s lived in Los Feliz for nearly four decades, was on the LFIA’s zoning and history committees before joining the board and ultimately joined the board. She served as its first vice president last year. Originally, she said, she thought she and her husband would move back to the Bay area.

“But luckily we moved to Los Feliz, which is friendly and walkable and includes Griffith Park. That made all the difference,” said Gustinic, who is a design strategist.

This year, the first vice president is Mary Haberle. The Rowena Reservoir sits on busy Hyperion Avenue, just steps away from John Marshall High school students and plenty of homeowners and renters, yet its beauty serves none of them. This serene environment, lush with trees and water features, is closed to the public.

### LOS FELIZ IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

**Meet the LFIA Board Officers**

By Lynne T. Jewell, Second Vice President

A North Carolinian transplanted from San Francisco to the Franklin Hills is the newly minted president of the LFIA. Amy Gustinic and the other 2019-2020 officers were elected and seated at a recent board of directors meeting.

The community-minded Gustinic, who moved to Los Feliz six years ago, almost instantly became involved in the LFIA and ultimately joined the board. She served as its first vice president last year. Originally, she added, she thought she and her husband would move back to the Bay area.

“But luckily we moved to Los Feliz, which is friendly and walkable and includes Griffith Park. That made all the difference,” said Gustinic, who is a design strategist.

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Los Feliz Ledger

OUT AND ABOUT
August 2019
Compiled by Michael Darling, Ledger Contributing Writer

ART

Off! Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery hosts Off!, a group show focused on the concept of off!—the eating of internal organs. As off! is often stigmatized, this exhibit will explore themes like organs, waste, cultural retention and shame. Forty-three Los Angeles artists will participate in this exhibit, exploring sculpture, painting, video and mixed media presentations. Free. Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery, Thurs. August 15th to Thurs. September 29th. 4800 Hollywood Blvd. Information: lamag.org

[OUT AND ABOUT] Los Angeles Based Kolars played last year’s Echo Park Rising festival.

Los Angeles Echo Park Rising Festival

BOOKS


MOVIES

Filmobile Summer Screening Series every other Thursday the Echo Park Film Club takes their filmobile on the road for a series of classic films at “cinematic locations” around town. For the tenth season, the theme is “Valley Teens” featuring classic teen films set in the San Fernando Valley, like classic teen films set in the San Fernando Valley, like North By Northwest. The Bad News Bears, Karate Kid, Fast Times at Ridgemont High and La Bamba. Each screening takes place at a different outdoor location around L.A., which will be announced 24 hours beforehand. Free. Secret locations around Los Angeles, Tues. July 30th to Sun. August 11th, all screenings, 8 p.m. Information: echoparkfilmcenter.org, locations will be announced at https://twitter.com/spotfilmobile

MUSIC

Elvis Costello & The Imposters and Blondie Join two New Wave legends under the stars at the Greek. Each band has forty years of music to draw upon, so expect to hear lots of hits, like “Alison,” “One Way or Another,” “What’s So Funny ‘Bout Peace, Love, and Understanding,” and “Heart Of Glass.” Tickets start at $29.50. Greek Theatre, Mon. August 5th, 7:30 p.m. 2700 N. Vermont Ave. Information: (323) 660-3572, lagreektheatre.com

Echo Park Rising Now in its ninth year, the free festival features local bands and comedians at venues along Sunset Boulevard and Glendale Boulevard. At press time, the line up hadn’t yet been announced, but it’s sure to be an exciting and eclectic one. Free. Various venues around Echo Park, Fri. August 15th to Sun. August 18th. Information: epir.la

THEATER

Pass Over Antoinette Nwannido’s award winning play explores the Exodus saga through Waiting For Godot and modern American slang. The play follows Moses and Kitch standing on a corner talking smack while waiting for a miracle to come. Pass Over won the Off-Broadway League’s 2019 Lucille Lortel Award for Outstanding Play. Tickets start at $29.50. Atwater Village Theater, Fri. July 31st to Mon. August 19th. 3269 Casitas Ave. Information: (310) 397-3752 and echotheatercompany.com

FOOD AND DRINK

Barnsdall Park Friday Wine Tastings Now in its 17th summer, DJ spin music and Silverskate curates wines for you to sip on in the shadow of Frank Lloyd Wright’s Hollyhock House at this unique wine tasting series. Each night will feature different food trucks and this year’s event has wines from around the world paired with cuisine from their native lands. Tickets: $35. Barnsdall Art Park, every Friday night through September 6th, 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. 4800 Hollywood Blvd. Information: barnsdall.org

HISTORY

Hooray For Hollywood: The 95 Year History Of The Hollywood Sign You probably see it every day, but do you know the history of the iconic Hollywood Sign? Join Hollywood author Mary Mallory as she discusses how the sign became one of our most cherished civic symbols. Free. Los Feliz Branch Library. Sat. August 17th, 1 p.m. 1265 Hillhurst Ave. info: lapl.org and (323) 933-4720

[SENIOR MOMENTS]

Moving to A Different Lifestyle

As you have probably heard, the older population is growing fast. People are living longer and healthier than in previous generations. As late as 1930, America’s old-er population numbered less than 7 million—only 5.4% of the population. Today, one in three Americans is now 50 or older. With approximately 77 million Baby Boomers—those born between 1946 and 1964—quite a few of us are now moving through the gates of retirement.

In addition to the dramatic growth in numbers, life ex-pectancy has increased. Ener-getic lifestyles in older ages are more the norm, something not seen in previous generations. Think of living to 25% of our lives in active retirement. With these statistics in mind, most of us have to be more thoughtful about what we do beyond work and child rearing responsibilities. We can’t just retire and go to the “rocking chair.” Some of us may have to seriously consider staying in the job market longer than the normal stated retirement age, not only for maintaining access to income, but to maintain a lifestyle that has been positive.

For others, retirement may mean creation of a new life-style. In your work or parent-ing, life there is a social milieu to which you are exposed; you use your time, and you will need to find a new purpose.

Even before you retire you can explore possibilities. Con-sider looking into retirement living communities where op-portunities for social activities and learning new hobbies or skills are conveniently available. Plus, there’s the advan-tage of having meal prep and housing maintenance done for you, so you can free your time and energy for other things.

You can also seek out what your neighborhood or community has to offer in the form of a location such as the Griffith Park Adult Community Center (GPACC), where you can seek out new hobbies or discover what others are doing with their newfound time. Lately GPACC has been looking at fresh ways to improve, such as longer hours and activities that might attract people who are moving into retirement but still working. Come over and see what’s all about!

Sunset Hall - Curriculum and Advocacy
Thanks to our ad sponsor Sunset Hall. They offer: Programs for free-thinking older adults (323) 660-5277
Beginning Conversational Spanish Wednesdays 3:30-4:30 & Advanced Thursdays 3:30-4:30
Griffith Park Adult Community Center Calendar

No General Meetings in August

Check out the Movies:
Mondays, 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., New Releases – 8/5 The Mule, 8/12 The Bookshop, 8/19 Showdown, 8/26 The Upside
Tuesdays, 1:00 p.m. Classics – 8/6 Enchanted, 8/13 The Princess Bride, 8/20 Stardust, 8/27 Willow

How about Dancing? Hula Dancing, Latin Dancing, Line Dancing, Folk Dancing

The Lunch Program: Lunch is served 5 days a week at the Center. $2 is the donation for those over 60 years. $4 for less than 60 years. Only cash or checks accepted. Come in for refreshments any day of the week.

For more information on the Griffith Park Adult Community Center and getting a newsletter, call GPACC at (323) 444-5579. You can also go to our websites: site:gpaccclub.com

GPACC is located at 2303 Riverside Dr, just south of Los Feliz Blvd.
In Case You Missed It

Briefs on stories we’ve published online since our last edition.

UBER SUED OVER ALLEGED BEATING AFTER LOS FELIZ PICKUP

A Burbank resident is suing Uber, alleging he was attacked by a driver for the ride-hailing company, resulting in a broken wrist and other injuries, for attempting to eat French fries in the driver’s car after he was picked up from Los Feliz’s Tiki Ti bar.

ENGINEERING FIRM INVESTIGATING GONDOLA FOR Griffith Park

The city has hired an engineering consulting firm to study the feasibility of an aerial transit system in and around Griffith Park, in the hopes that ferrying passengers could lead to improved mobility and decreased traffic.

Several tramway lines will be analyzed, including various locations for starting and landing stations and viewing areas, which could include the Hollywood Sign. The firm will also study potential effects on the surrounding wildlife and community.

LAPD SPIED ON ANTI-TRUMP PROTESTERS AT ECHO PARK CHURCH MEETINGS

A Los Angeles Police Dept. (LAPD) informant secretly recorded meetings held by the Los Angeles chapter of Refuse Fascism, an activist organization behind several anti-Trump protests, including two that shut down a portion of the 101 Freeway in 2017, the Los Angeles Times reported July 19th.

According to court documents, the LAPD informant attended four of the organization’s meetings at Echo Park United Methodist Church with a hidden recorder in 2017 to see if the group posed a threat to public safety leading up to the one year anniversary of President Donald Trump’s election.

ROWENA PARK? Ryu asks CITY TO INVESTIGATE OPENING LOS FELIZ AREA RESERVOIR TO THE PUBLIC

Citing a 2016 voter-approved tax measure to fund more parks in Los Angeles county, Los Angeles City Councilmember David Ryu called on the city to investigate opening the Rowena Reservoir to the public in a motion introduced in early July.

The council’s Energy, Climate Change and Environmental Justice Committee will review the motion after the council returns from their July recess.

Hollyhock House named UNESCO World Heritage Site

Hollyhock House, architect Frank Lloyd Wright’s 1921 modernist creation at Barnsdall Art Park, was named a UNESCO World Heritage site July 7th, the first time modern American architecture has been recognized by the United Nations cultural organization.

Hollyhock House was built for oil heiress Aline Barnsdall. It is now owned by the city of Los Angeles and operated by the Dept. of Cultural Affairs as part of the art park, which also includes a gallery, theater and year-round art classes.

Rowena Building poised for demolition for new apartments

The commercial building that houses Silver Lake Optometry and Shag, hair salon may be demolished for a six-story mixed-use apartment building with 39 units—including five earmarked for low-income earners—and is now in the pipeline for city approvals. The project also proposes 1,180 square feet of street level retail space.

Dr. Michel Kahwaji, who runs an optometry business at the location, bought the building in 1978, according to his son, George, whose company Premium Triangle Group, is the developer. According to the younger Kahwaji, his father will relocate during construction.

In exchange for the low-income units, the Kahwajis are seeking to build beyond the four-stories allowed by local zoning codes to 60-feet—or six stories—and to have fewer parking spaces than what is required for residents.

Silver Lake’s iconic “Happy Foot/Sad Foot” sign marking Sunset Boulevard’s nearly 40-year-old Sunset Foot Clinic will relocate, along with the business it advertises, to Rampart Village in September.

The sign has become an indelible part of the neighborhood over the last four decades, inspiring the nickname “HaFo SaFo” for its area of Silver Lake.

According to local lore, which side you see of the rotating sign—happy or sad—will determine your luck for the day, and the sign has been immortalized in novels by literary greats David Foster Wallace and Jonathan Lethem.

Silver Lake's iconic “Happy Foot/Sad Foot” sign marking Sunset Boulevard’s nearly 40-year-old Sunset Foot Clinic will relocate, along with the business it advertises, to Rampart Village in September.

Lightbox
[REAL ESTATE]

L.A. County Property Values Reach All-Time High; Los Feliz Median Breaks $2 Million Again

Los Angeles County property values were at an all-time high of $1.6 trillion this tax year, according to a July 15th announcement by County Assessor Jeff Prang.

The 2019 tax assessment roll grew by a record $94.4 billion, or 6.25% over the prior year, representing record highs in real estate and business property values across the county, according to Prang. He said new records also include total tax savings for homeowners and charitable organizations, and $84.8 billion in assessed business property values.

"The strong growth in the local real estate market for the ninth consecutive year will have a positive impact on services for L.A. County's 10 million residents," Prang said in his July 15th statement. "From education, healthcare and mental health services, to public safety, transportation and alleviating the homeless crisis, our schools, cities and country programs will have approximately an additional $1 billion for vital local public services."

Just over half the growth came from the reassessment of properties that were sold. Proposition 13, a 1978 state law that limits property tax increases, allows properties to be reassessed at their sale price.

Fifty years after local grocer and clothier Leno and Rosemary LaBianca were murdered at their Waverly Drive home by the so-called Manson "family," followers of serial killer Charles Manson, their former home has sold for nearly $2 million.

The property, located at 3311 Waverly Dr. listed for $1.98 million in mid-July according to online property records, and according to a July 25th TMZ report, sold almost immediately to Travel Channel star Zak Bagans for "close-to-asking," though the sale had not yet closed at press time, and a listing for the home on real estate website Redfin.com indicated the realtor was still accepting backup offers.

The pending sale coincides with the 50th anniversary of the August 1969 murders, and Bagans, who hosts the reality television show Ghost Adventures, told TMZ that the home's gruesome history was a key factor in his decision to purchase the property.

The 1,655-square-foot two-bedroom, two-bath home sits on a 31,000-square-foot property, which features a pool, covered patio, and sweeping views of the San Gabriel Mountains.

It previously sold for $375,000 in 1998, according to public records.

Your Neighbors and Local Real Estate Agents

Shannon & Joey Fenton
Fenton Real Estate Team
fentonla.com
310.365.6118
shannon@fentonla.com
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A White Glove Approach
By Rob Loos, Ledger Columnist

I’m convinced the two tiny spotlights illuminating our gas cook top are possessed. I had them fully functional last month and now they’ve returned to the dark side. Last month, I not only solved the baffling way these high intensity lights are installed, but I didn’t have to destroy our grill hood to do it.

Katy Perry Allows Convert Purchase Rights to Lapse
By Allison B. Cohen

LOS FELIZ—Despite multiple media reports, the Waverly Drive convent at the heart of a now resolved long legal battle between singer Katy Perry and local businesswoman Dana Hollister is not for sale, according to Los Angeles Archdiocese spokesperson Adrian Marquez Alarcon. The New York Post reported in June that the property was on the real estate market for $25 million, and other media, including Elle magazine, picked up the story. The Post’s story sourced an attorney for Sister Rita Callanan, a nun with the Sisters of the Most Holy and Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary, an order that lived at the property until 2011. The nuns purchased the property in 1971 for $600,000 with the help of then owner Daniel Donohue, according to the New York Times. Donohue died in 2014. Callanan and Sister Rose Holzman—who is also since deceased—sold the property to Hollister, who a Los Angeles Superior Court judge ruled was invalid in 2016, because the sisters, the judge said, had no authority over the property and that additionally, any such sale would have needed to be approved by the archdiocese and the Vatican.

“The property is still owned by the IHM Institute and has not been relisted,” Alarcon said in an email, referring to the Immaculate Heart of Mary Sisters of the archdiocese. According to Alarcon, after a judge cleared the way for the sale to Perry, the archdiocese and the pop star agreed to a timeline for Perry to purchase the property, which has expired. “With that said,” Alarcon said, “the Archdiocese and Ms. Perry continue to be in communication concerning her continued interest in the property.” Neither Hollister nor the lawyers who represented her during the Perry lawsuit responded to a request for an interview.

Now, I’m thinking that I treated these expensive little bulbs too kindly—for they are clearly harbingers of evil.

My wife thinks I relate too easily to inanimate objects, as if they have a life of their own and a fiendish intent to be—frustrated to hear my problem called my super contractor—since they templated returning the dead size, shape and wattage. I concluded these expensive little bulbs had made it their mission to torment me.

For the first three days, the bulbs were super bright—like the warming lamps in the clean room would use to repair the Starship Enterprise. Fiddle. She could be right. I’ve written animated sagas where toasters come to life, lemons and limes dance the conga and cartons of eggs spell out warnings to visitors of the fridge. But I swear these expensive little ‘hood’ bulbs have made it their mission to torment me.

Perhaps that’s because his fiancée was waiting for him in the hot tub, or maybe because a good contractor is kind of like a great doctor: everywhere you go your friends are asking you for free advice about your sore hip, bad back, or those malicious lights over the stove.

At any rate, Dave’s response seemed to echo my wife’s earlier assessment that I somehow bungled the installation. Dave asked if I installed the bulbs with white gloves. Of course not. I thought he was kidding—I assumed he meant with a white glove touch. But no, he literally meant white cloth gloves, like the kind that the scientists in JPL’s clean room would use to repair a NavCam on a Mars Rover. Apparently these tiny high intensity bulbs cannot come in contact with the natural oils that are on human hands—or something akin to that rule that everyone knows but me. At any rate, wearing actual white gloves, I reinstalled new bulbs and they are now working perfectly, which once again goes to prove: “If I can’t figure it out—and I know that I can’t”—my friend Dave can.

I’ve written animated sagas where toasters come to life, lemons and limes dance the conga and cartons of eggs spell out warnings to visitors of the fridge. But I swear these expensive little ‘hood’ bulbs have made it their mission to torment me.

Los Feliz Ledger

Page 10 So Casa REAL ESTATE

Losfelzledger.com August 2019
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3100 N. Beachwood Drive
Karen Lower
323.804.8043
karen.lower@compass.com
DRE 01296557
Mid Century
Hollywood Hills Retreat
$1,489,000
3 Bed | 2 Bath | 1,745 Sq Ft

4129 Parva Avenue
Karen Lower
323.804.8043
karen.lower@compass.com
DRE 01296557
New and Improved
Los Feliz Gem
$1,449,000
3 Bed | 2 Bath | 1,694 Sq Ft

975 W. Kensington Road
Tracy Do
323.842.4001
tracy@tracydo.com
DRE 01350025
4 Bed | 2 Bath | 1,662 Sq Ft
Two Homes on One Lot in Historic Angelino Heights
$1,299,000

2427 Kenilworth Avenue
Tracy Do
323.842.4001
tracy@tracydo.com
DRE 01350025
2 Bed | 2.5 Bath | 1,436 Sq Ft
Reservoir Views and a Detached Guest House in Ivanhoe
$1,395,000

4223 Russell Avenue
Richard Wilkinson
323.445.2426
richard@wilkinson-properties.com
DRE 01812487
3 Bed | 1 Bath | 1,373 Sq Ft
Compelling Spanish Style Home with Views and Artist's Studio
$1,300,000

3960 Roderick Road
Richard Wilkinson | Amy Ferguson
323.445.2426 | 979.957.3819
richard@wilkinson-properties.com
amy@wilkinson-properties.com
DRE 01812487 | 02064833
3 Bed | 1.5 Bath | 1,020 Sq Ft
Perfect Starter Home
$599,000

2201 Vestal Avenue
Steve Clark | Clarkliving
628.788.3013
steve@clarkliving.com
DRE 01482283
3 Bed | 4.75 Bath | 3,420 Sq Ft
Stunning Contemporary Oasis with Guest House
$2,475,000

Scan to view our weekend open house guide
$905K Over Asking Price in Laughlin Park.

$20 Million in Sales in the Last Three Months.
We love our jobs.

Thank you, Los Feliz.
—Tina Marie Phan + Levi Freeman
2600 ABERDEEN AVE, LOS FELIZ  $10,750,000
1932 gated Italian estate on almost an acre of flat grounds.
Konstantine Valissarakos 323.252.9451

5950 HAYES AVE, HIGHLAND PARK  $1,299,000
Well-maintained triplex with 13,544 sq ft of land and 2,476 sq ft.
Gina Isaac 323.829.8009

3839 LILAC CANYON LN, ALTADENA  $1,775,000
Traditional stunner located in guard-gated La Vina community.
Joani Kiec 323.842.6743

2543 GLENDOVER AVE, LOS FELIZ  $1,699,000
Contemporary home remodeled & remodeled to perfection.
Adam Sires/Michael Nourmand 310.498.1024

3923 FERNWOOD AVE, LOS FELIZ  $1,492,000
Two amazing newly remodeled Modern homes on Franklin Hills.
Konstantine Valissarakos 323.252.9451

600 S LUCERNE BL, HANCOCK PARK  $1,492,000
Spacious, bright and peaceful 3 bed + 2 1/2 bath townhome.
Jodi Deranja 818.660.5196

2980 AVENEL TERRACE, SILVER LAKE  $885,000
Updated ranch-style pool house with 3 beds and 2 baths.
Mona Ghossein 323.422.2244

7703 GOODLAND AVE, NOHO  $865,000
Updated ranch-style pool house with 3 beds and 2 baths.
Mona Ghossein 323.422.2244

2228 N CATALINA ST, LOS FELIZ  $3,497,000
Old Hollywood mansion on sprawling flat grounds w/ huge pool.
Konstantine Valissarakos 323.252.9451

4255 GREENBUSH AVE, SHERMAN OAKS  $1,249,000
Updated gem in prime Sherman Oaks location with permitted ADU.
The Kostrey Collection 323.785.7546

887 FLINTRIDGE AVE, LA CAÑADA  $6,195,000
Historical and elegant 1500s estate on a nearly 2 acre lot.
Rochelle Maize/Alex Masket 310.402.5865

9060 ST IVES DR, SUNSET STRIP  $3,495,000
Traditional on 9,000sf+ lot in lower Doheny w/ head-on city views.
Michael Nourmand & Adam Sires 310.666.3294

7703 GOODLAND AVE, NOHO  $865,000
Updated ranch-style pool house with 3 beds and 2 baths.
Mona Ghossein 323.422.2244

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Rochelle Maize/Alex Masket 310.402.5865
RETAIL from page 1

into the new units.

In addition, the Ledger found that at large mixed-use complexes in nearby Hollywood, a substantial majority of retail tenants are chain brands such as Shake Shack or Dunkin Donuts, a trend that could repeat at new developments in Los Feliz.

"[Mixed-use] developers look for tenants who can pay the rent," said Donegan McCuaig, founder of Quixotic Realty Inc. in downtown Los Angeles. "They prefer larger established national brands because they are strong financially."

In Los Feliz, the planned developments include a four-to-six-story, 202-unit residential and retail complex at the former Auto Zone property at Hollywood Boulevard and Vine, 1600 Vine, the set and Vine, 1600 Vine, the Gershwin developments near Barnsdall Park at 4900 and 4850 Western Avenues; and two-story, 87-unit residential and retail complex at the property at Hollywood Boulevard and Vine, 1600 Vine.

The Ledger found that available rents at these and other newer mixed-use developments in Los Feliz, Echo Park, Silver Lake and Hollywood were on average over $13 more expensive per-square-foot per year than retail properties built before 2010, according to data from the real estate site Loopnet.

Available retail units at over 50 older buildings the Ledger analyzed averaged $45.75 per-square-foot per year, while space at the nine newer or in-development properties averaged about $60.

The averages are not a complete snapshot of retail listings in the area. But they do appear to illustrate recent changes in the local retail real estate market, particularly in central Hollywood, where large-scale development has been underway for about a decade.

There, the Ledger found that of the 31 retail tenants at five major mixed-use apartment complexes, 27 were chain brands.

All of those properties—which include Eastown, Sunset and Vine, 1600 Vine, the Camden and the Gershwin Apartments—appear to have been built or renovated in the last 10 years.

Scott Blakeslee, a vice president at DLJ Real Estate Capital Partners, which has begun accepting applications for retail tenants at its recently finished mixed-use El Centro apartments in Hollywood at 6200 Hollywood Blvd., declined to specify whether the firm prefers chain tenants.

"It's crucial that our retailers fit within the live-work-play lifestyle that El Centro affords, while also adding value and convenience for residents," he said.

"We also look for businesses that provide products or services the neighborhood may currently lack."

Even with Hollywood as an example, there's reason to believe that mom-and-pop business can still find a home at the new developments in Los Feliz.

"Some landlords don't want [chains] because [those tenants] want long term leases," said Quixotic Realty's McCuaig. "That affords the landlord less flexibility, as well as the possibility of not being able to raise the rent to market value."

One thing that seems certain, however, is that developers will continue building mixed-use projects across Los Angeles.

In addition to Hollywood, downtown L.A. and the Westside have in recent years experienced a surge in new residential-retail properties.

"We are seeing developers looking for a mix of experiential retail, such as gyms or restaurants, as well as retail that can contribute toward the mixed-use development, including convenience stores [and] dry-cleaning services," said George Pino, chief executive at L.A.-based Commercial Brokers International.

Just last month in Silver Lake, a six-story mixed-use apartment building was proposed to replace Silver Lake Optometry and Shag hair salon on Rowena Avenue. The 39-unit project with 1,180 square feet of retail space would be developed by George Kahwaji, whose father owns the property.

"The Kahwaji family have been long time residents of Silverlake since 1938 and are committed to the future development of the area," Kahwaji said in a statement to the Ledger.

LFI from page 6

ment industry, is the LFIA’s coordinating secretary. Originally from the Central Coast, she’s lived in Los Feliz for over 20 years. Kolb also co-chairs the communications committee.

I’m currently the board’s second vice president. Formerly from Florida, I moved to Los Feliz in 1985 and have a great passion for the history of the community, serving as co-chair of the history committee.

Gustincic replaces Standy Robinson who remains on the board as ex-officio president, hails from Massachusetts and, like her fellow board members, lists volunteering as a top priority.

As the new president, Gustincic encourages and invites all Los Feliz residents to become involved in LFIA activities.

"I’ve experienced firsthand how the efforts of [the] LFIA make an impact in the community—from street and river cleansups to advocacy with the city—and welcome others to join us."

Interested in becoming involved in the LFIA? Contact correspondences@lfia.org.
The Hollywood Hills received only $15,000 in funds, but according to Pampanin that is partly because some issues that were previously funded through discretionary funds—like traffic and law enforcement around the Hollywood Sign—are now part of the city’s overall budget. Ryu ran on a platform in 2015, in part, to take the mystery out of discretionary fund spending by creating an online portal for community members to make funding requests and creating a community based “discretionary funds task force”—which meets about six times a year—to help him decide how the dollars are spent. He took these steps after it was revealed in the media that his predecessor, Tom LaBonge, used $1.6 million of discretionary funding between 2006 and 2015 to pay for staff salaries.

Regarding the $2.3 million in CRA funds, Ryu used those dollars for six big ticket items in his district, including $1.1 million for improvements along Vermont Avenue, between Franklin Avenue and Sunset Boulevard; $400,000 to make his district’s portion of Western Avenue more pedestrian-friendly; $1.1 million for improvements along Vermont Avenue, between Franklin Avenue and Sunset Boulevard; $400,000 to make his district’s portion of Western Avenue more pedestrian-friendly; $300,000 for a new library—擴建 the Durant Library—at Sunset Boulevard; $400,000 to improve streetscape near Highland Avenue and Iona Park; upgrading the athletic fields at DeLongpre Park, which is located near Highland Avenue and Iona Park; creating a walkway along Vineyard Avenue; and for operational costs at the LGBT Center, now seen as a flagship homeless housing center.

“Ryu, who they are or where they live, can have a quality place to play. It’s also why I have been working to open up the Rowena Reservoir to the community of Los Feliz as a contemplative park—a place to step away from the hustle and bustle, slow down, and enjoy the landscape. I introduced a motion in July to achieve this, and I look forward to hearing it in my committee.”

The Rowena Reservoir is unique in that it contains a functioning reservoir—with a 10 million gallon underground tank—responsible for providing drinking water to many Los Angeles businesses and households.

The nearly 10-acre space, owned & operated by the Department of Water & Power (DWP), also contains two beautiful above ground ponds, waterfalls, landscaping, and open space to stroll.

The Rowena Reservoir sits on busy Hyperion Avenue, just steps away from John Marshall High school students and plenty of homeowners and renters, yet its beauty serves none of them. This serene environment, lush with trees and water features, is closed to the public

Opening it will not all be easy. Measures must be taken to ensure that the reservoir can continue to function safely while welcoming visitors. The power stations on site must be secured and operations between the Recreation & Parks Dept. and the DWP must be harnessed.

But opening the Rowena Reservoir to the public is necessary, because parks and open spaces are vital resources to our health, our families and our city. Spaces like these can transform neighborhoods, bring communities solace and kinship, and provide refuge for a kid just looking to be a kid for a while.

...the funds were used for a wide variety of things like for permits and equipment for block parties, community meetings, events and fairs; speed bumps, traffic control, the creation of street medians and the beautification of utility boxes.

The Hollywood area received $95,000 in discretionary funds; Los Feliz, $65,000; and Griffith Park, another $50,000. The Hollywood Hills received only $15,000 in funds, but according to Pampanin that is partly because some issues that were previously funded through discretionary funds—like traffic and law enforcement around the Hollywood Sign—are now part of the city’s overall budget. Ryu ran on a platform in 2015, in part, to take the mystery out of discretionary fund spending by creating an online portal for community members to make funding requests and creating a community based “discretionary funds task force”—which meets about six times a year—to help him decide how the dollars are spent. He took these steps after it was revealed in the media that his predecessor, Tom LaBonge, used $1.6 million of discretionary funding between 2006 and 2015 to pay for staff salaries.

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For those who seek an exceptional life

LOS FELIZ | NEW LISTING

2228 Catalina Street
OFFERED AT $5,497,000
Grand Hillside lot w/pool & charm
Rick Yohon 323.270.7275  co-listed

HANCOCK PARK | SOLD

607 N McCadden Place
OFFERED AT $2,689,000
Spanish Colonial contra mutation, 1923 with pool
Rick Yohon 323.270.7275  co-listed

LAKE HOLLYWOOD | SOLD

3388 Tareco Drive
OFFERED AT $2,595,000
c. 1949 Colonial 4,540 sq ft with pool and views.
Rick Yohon 323.270.7275  co-listed

LOS FELIZ | IN ESCROW

3512 Griffith Park Blvd.
OFFERED AT $2,355,000
Mid Century Abl, house reimagined with pool.
Rick Yohon 323.270.7275  co-listed

PASADENA | NEW LISTING

725 Burleigh Drive
C. 1957 by Calvin C. Strahl FAIA, Hub House
Michelle St. Clair & Joey Kiralla

SILVER LAKE | NEW LISTING

4966 Ambrose Avenue
OFFERED AT $1,598,000
Modern home with subtle architectural details.
Kat Nitsou 310.999.9580

2484 Armstrong Avenue
OFFERED AT $1,198,000
3BD/3BA South facing mid Silver Lake reserve.
Michelle St. Clair & Joey Kiralla

SILVER LAKE | SOLD

1926 Redcliff Street
Mid Century 3 bedrooms and 2 bath with views.
Gail Crosby 323.428.2864  rep buyer

EL SERENO | SOLD

3923 Fernwood Avenue
OFFERED AT $1,379,000
2 modern rebuilt homes on a lot, 2.6D/2Ha + 1Ha B
Rick Yohon 323.270.7275  co-listed

HOLLYWOOD | INVESTOR OPPORTUNITY

6029 Eleanor Avenue
OFFERED AT $950,000
2 bedroom 2 bath bungalow fixer. Redevelopment.
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1,300,000
Magical character artist's cabin 2bd/2ba with views.
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1,050,000
4bd/3ba craftsman, gorgeous remodel with pool.
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Per World Atlas, as of March 5, 2019, The United States has 23 UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Of these, ten are cultural, one is mixed, and twelve are natural sites, with most of them being national parks. These sites are places of importance in America’s rich cultural history and represent the remarkable diversity of its people. Welcome Hollyhock House, LOS FELIZ.

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[RESTAURANT REVIEW]
Northern Thai Food Club
By Pat Saperstein, Ledger Restaurant Critic

One of the most intriguing things about Northern Thai Food Club is the name—the sense you've been invited to a private dinner in an accomplished chef's dining room that just happens to be a former mini-mall donut shop.

The other thing, of course, is the food. Just as Los Angeles diners were stunned to discover a whole new kaleidoscope of Thai flavors when Jitlada's famous Southern Thai menu hit the city 12 years ago, now northern Thai food—as distinguished from Isaan fare, from the northeastern part of the country—is finally getting more attention.

Chef Amphai “Nancy” Dunne started out making food at local Thai fairs before moving into the Sunset Boulevard mini-mall that also houses Pa-Ord, a solid noodle shop. It’s still a somewhat improvisational affair: there’s only seating for about a dozen, and well-priced dishes—most everything is $7—are served in plastic takeout containers.

That makes it easy to have a feast at home if there’s no seats, since dual articles in the Los Angeles Times and Los Angeles magazine brought Northern Thai a big increase in business a few months ago.

Start by checking out the steam table dishes on display and don’t be hesitant to ask what’s in each one. There’s usually an earthy pork larb, fragrant with Northern spices and much less tart than the Isaan version. Also showing up on the steam table are a variety of stews and curries like Gaeng pak plang, with a healthy dose of spinach, rounding out chunks of pork swimming in a deeply flavored broth, and Northern specialties like Kang ho—vermicelli noodles with eggplant, curry to moderate, a far cry from Jitlada’s searing southern curries. Get some sticky rice to help scoop up the saucy dishes and try one of the nam prik dips, like the tomato version, in which ground pork is pounded together with chilis and spices. Northern Thai’s version of Khao soi gai, the mild chicken curry noodles showered with green onions, cilantro and fried shallots, is one of the best in the city.

This isn’t the place to look for pad thai and satay, but rather a chance to experience less familiar preparations and ingredients like the sweet flowers of the ceiba or kapok tree, morning glory stems and chives or acacia. Along with the frequent use of musky bamboo shoots, these herbs and vegetables give many of the dishes an only-in-Thailand quality.

Pork has the starring role on the menu, but the vegetables are equally compelling. Jackfruit salad is an instant new favorite: the server explains that the mashed eggplant gets its intensely smoky flavor from spending a long time on the grill.

With its broad command of traditional dishes and down-to-earth approach, Northern Thai feels like a market stall thousands of miles away. And isn’t that what we love about L.A.—the ability to be transported in a former donut shop? 5301 Sunset Blvd., 811, Los Angeles, CA 90027.

[THEATER REVIEW]
Dancing At Lughnasa Now Onstage at Atwater Village Theatre
By Marilyn Tower Oliver, Ledger Theater Critic

Humor and sadness mingle in Dancing at Lughnasa, Open Fist Theatre Company’s current production at the Atwater Village Theatre. Noted Irish playwright Brian Friel’s evocative masterpiece won the Tony and the Olivier awards for best play in 1991.

Best described as a memory play, Dancing at Lughnasa takes place in 1936 in the rural Irish countryside in County Donegal during the Celtic harvest festival of Lughnasa.

Michael Mundy, now an adult, narrates the story as he reminisces about a significant summer when he was 7 when he lived with his unmarried mother, Chris, and her four sisters, all in their 30’s.

Kate is a devout Catholic schoolteacher and Rose is developmentally disabled. The pair, along with sister Agnes, knit gloves to bring in a little extra money and Maggie tends the house. Uncle Jack, a Catholic priest, suffers from an undisclosed illness and memory loss. As the sisters bustle to get ready for the festival, there is an undercurrent of despair. Creeping industrial- ization threatens to make the sisters’ glove making obso- lete. Kate, the only gainfully employed family member, worries about keeping her job as a parish teacher while Uncle Jack’s admiration of native religious practices has raised eyebrows in the strict Catholic community.

In spite of the looming problems, the sisters enjoy mu- sic from their temperamental wireless radio and from time to time they burst out in exu- berant dancing with uninhib- ited whirling, stomping and yelling.

Excitement comes when Michael’s father Gerry, a glib traveling salesman, makes an unexpected visit and an- nounces plans to enlist in the International Brigade to fight in the Spanish Civil War.

As the sisters’ lives unravel, we feel their desperation to survive in an environment where there is little promise of hope. Poverty, religious con- trol and society’s conventions make escape almost impos- sible.

Director Barbara Scho- field directs an able cast. Da- vid Shofner as Michael ties the story together through his narration. Lane Allison’s Mag- gie captures the character’s humor and humanity. Sandra Kate Burk delivers as the de- velopmentally disabled Rose. Scott Roberts’ characteriza- tion of the vagabond salesman Gerry and Christopher Cappi- lio’s Father Jack add humor- ous notes.

Designer James Spencer’s set charmingly recreates the Mundy’s kitchen where much of the action takes place.

This is a play in which nothing much happens, but where everything ultimately changes. My only complaint was that I had a bit of trouble understanding some of the ac- tors’ thick Irish accents.

Dancing at Lughnasa, through August 18th, Atwater Village Theatre, 3269 Casitas Ave. Fridays, Saturdays, Mon- days, 8 p.m.; Sundays 4 p.m. $20 to $30. Free parking in the Atwater Xing lot one block south of the theater or on the street.
In Los Feliz, 15 homes sold for a staggering $2.05 million median, a 44% jump month-over-month, and the second highest median price of the year for that area, following April’s $2.325 million median.

 california.

Comparatively, there were 4,658 homes and 1,585 condos sold in all of Los Angeles County in June, down from 5,044 homes and 1,743 condos sold countywide during the previous month.

In the Hollywood Hills’ 90068 ZIP code, 31 single-family homes sold in June—three fewer than the month prior. The median price for those homes was $1,005,000, the same as in May, but 4% lower than June 2018’s median. Condo prices boosted that city’s overall tax base 25.7%, by far the highest percentage increase in the county.

The change will provide an additional $276,000 to the city, $463,000 to the Inglewood Unified School District and $580,000 to the county, according to the assessor.

Meanwhile, nine homes sold in 90039—which includes parts of Silver Lake, Los Feliz and Atwater Village—in June, 11 fewer than in May. The median price for the area was down about 2% from May but up about 26% from the previous year to $1.272 million. Six condos sold in the area for a median of $826,000—about 36% higher than in May and about 47% above the previous June’s median condo price for the area. Countywide, the median home price for June was $650,000, an increase of about 2% month-over-month and less than a percent year-over-year. Condo prices saw a 4% jump month-over-month and a 1% jump year-over-year to a median of $555,000.
As one of few routes going east and west over the Los Angeles River and the 5 freeway, some residents have raised concerns that reducing lanes on the proposed section of Fletcher Drive will be detrimental to the community.

"We’re not against Vision Zero, we’re not against pedestrian safety and we’re not against safety along Fletcher Drive," said Luis Lopez, president of the Atwater Village Chamber of Commerce who owns an automotive shop on Fletcher. "We are for safety, but for this section of Fletcher Drive, lane reduction doesn’t make sense.

Glendale Boulevard and Los Feliz Boulevard are the other two main arteries in and out of Atwater Village from western areas of the city. They are also main freeway exits for commuters on the 5.

According to Lopez, those roads are already severely congested on a daily basis.

"We don’t have the roadway capacity to simply choose the next street,” Lopez said. Further community concerns have been raised about retrofitting the Glendale-Hyperion Bridge, a project which is expected to start next year. The bridge is among Atwater’s main access points to the rest of the city along Glendale Boulevard.

"If they close Hyperion bridge for construction and bring Fletcher down to one lane it’s going to be a big problem,” said one resident in a Facebook post when the project proposal was first made public in 2017. "The businesses there will suffer and no one will want to [walk or bike] anyway because the road rage driving will be insane.”

LADOT listed Fletcher Drive as a "priority corridor" among 24 others in the January report. Priority corridors are stretches of road at least a half mile long, which have had at least 15 traffic deaths or serious injuries per mile from 2013 to 2017.

The city has already upgraded all crosswalks on this stretch of Fletcher Drive for higher visibility.

While the 2017 proposal for Fletcher Drive included bike lane buffers and other changes to reduce car lanes, no official road diet plan has been implemented for the street. However, as a priority corridor it is eligible for such changes.

LADOT said new plans will be released publicly in 2020. Despite resistance from some commuters, many road safety advocacy groups in the city support the plan, including the Los Angeles Bicycle Coalition and Los Angeles Walks, who submitted a joint letter of support to the city in January.

"It’s obviously unsafe,” said Los Feliz cycling enthusiast and road safety activist, Sean Meredith, who said he frequently rides on Fletcher Drive.

According to Meredith, when his girlfriend recently road her bike from South Pasadena to visit him in Los Feliz, she did not tell him she would be taking Fletcher Drive on her route.

“She didn’t want me to be scared for her,” he said. While Meredith said he knows there are limited car routes in and out of Atwater Village, he also said there are equally few routes for bikes and pedestrians.

Additionally, he said, it would be "unacceptable" to leave Fletcher Drive as is, considering LADOT has designated it as one of the most dangerous corridors in the city. "I don’t want to see any kids getting hurt. I don’t want to see any senior citizens getting hurt," Meredith said.

According to LADOT, "robust" outreach will be part of Vision Zero projects moving forward, including a new website expected to launch in August that will update the public on the progress of all Vision Zero projects.

"Community engagement is of the highest priority for LADOT,” spokesperson Patricia Restrepo said in an email.

Previously, road diets in other areas of the city have proved divisive.

In 2017, a road diet in Playa del Rey was removed in response to community outrage. Closer by, a controversial road diet implemented in 2013 along Rowena Avenue in Silver Lake created a split among residents. Those lane reductions were ultimately upheld by a City Council vote in June, following a city-funded study indicating the change had decreased traffic accidents in the area.

A spokesperson for Los Angeles City Councilmember Mitch O’Farrell, who represents Atwater Village among other areas, said the councilmember has made safety and accessibility along major traffic corridors and around schools his “top transit priority.”

"Any fatality is one too many," O’Farrell spokesperson Tony Arranaga said in an email.

The Wilkinson Properties Group is a team of experienced real estate agents. Our drive, perseverance and powerful negotiation skills give our clients a distinct advantage in the competitive world of Los Angeles real estate.
VACCINES from page 1 of Public Health.

A review of that data shows several area schools are below the state average of about 95% of kindergarteners who have been vaccinated, while some schools dipped below a 75% vaccination rate.

Franklin Village’s Cheremoya Avenue Elementary School reported a 76% vaccination rate for the 2018-19 school year, according to the state data. One student had a permanent medical exemption.

However, according to Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) officials, the rates reported by the state may not reflect the most current statistics because reporting takes place in the fall, when some kindergarteners are still 4 years old and may not have received certain vaccinations before turning 5.

“Throughout the year the number changes,” Sossie Bedrossian, the district’s director of nursing services, said. Cheremoya officials said updated totals now reflect the school’s vaccination rate for the last school year stands at about 94%.

Other factors can lead to lower vaccination rates as well, Bedrossian said, such as students who are ineligible for vaccines due to health conditions like cancer.

Additionally, some children who have already contracted certain diseases, like the chicken pox, for example, would not be given that vaccination, because they are now immune, and are also reported as unvaccinated.

“Most schools will never be 100%,” Bedrossian said. “We want to make sure everyone’s who’s healthy and can get (vaccinated) does, so the limited population who can’t will also be protected.”

According to Bedrossian, data entry errors can also lead to underreporting.

The Hollywood Schoolhouse, a private school located near Highland and Fountain avenues, reported a 69% vaccination rate, with five students who received a permanent medical exemption.

“At Hollywood Schoolhouse we comply with all immunization requirements mandated by the State of California,” Tina Harris, the school’s director of administrative operations, said in an email statement.

Harris declined to comment further or explain the school’s low vaccination rate.

Citizens of the World Silverlake, which is part of a network of charter schools across Los Angeles, reported a 73% vaccination rate with no students receiving medical exemptions. A school official did not respond to requests for comment.

Los Feliz Charter School for the Arts reported an 87% vaccination rate. Six of the school’s 61 kindergarten students received a medical exemption.

Varina Bleil, the school’s executive director, said the school follows the state law regarding vaccinations.

“Being a school, we’re always trying to stay on top of the safety and well-being of our students,” she said.

Bleil declined to answer why the school’s proportion of students who received medical exemptions is among the highest in the area, citing student privacy laws.

“We are given the reason by their doctor but it is personal information we cannot share,” she said.

She said the exemptions for each student were given by different physicians.

Some schools, meanwhile, had vaccination rates above the state average such as Atwater Avenue Elementary and Los Feliz STEMM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math and Medicine) Magnet, which both topped 98%; Glenfeliz Boulevard Elementary, which had a 97% vaccination rate; and Ivanhoe Elementary School, which had a 96% vaccination rate.

“When students enter 7th grade, an additional set of vaccinations is required,” Bedrossian said.

Per state data, Silver Lake and Los Feliz’s Thomas Starr King Middle School had a vaccination rate of 98%, while Washington Irving Middle School, located between Atwater Village and Glassell Park, had a rate of 94%.

Recently, there has been heightened attention to vaccinations across the country.

In April, public health officials declared a measles outbreak in Los Angeles County. Since the beginning of the year, 16 cases of the disease have been reported among county residents, according to the Los Angeles County Dept. of Public Health. An additional eight cases have been reported by non-residents who have traveled through the area.

The local outbreak reflects a rise in the number of cases occurring nationally. A measles outbreak has been declared in 30 states during the same time period, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Measles, a highly contagious viral infection that spreads from person-to-person, was previously declared ‘eliminated’ in the country in 2000.

The Los Angeles County exposures may have occurred at Los Angeles International Airport, at several buildings on the University of California Los Angeles campus, at a library on the campus of California State University Los Angeles and at restaurants near Glendale.

Typically, California has high immunization rates due it is strict vaccination laws, which were tightened in 2016, when the state eliminated a “personal-belief” exemption for schoolchildren. However, the number of students who have medical exemptions has increased by nearly 70% since the personal belief exemption was abolished, according to state data.

A new bill, which is still pending in state legislature, see VACCINES page 22.

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SCHOOL NEWS Page 21
The annual summer Perseid meteor shower reaches its peak before dawn on the 13th. Unfortunately, the moon is full on the 15th, and on the 13th it will set at 6:25 a.m. This provides only 16 minutes of viewing without its interference until the start of dawn. As a result, viewing on the 11th and 12th might be more rewarding, even though the meteors will be fewer than the two per minute that they sometimes produce under dark skies.

Gleaming planet Jupiter in the sprawling constellation Ophiuchus the Serpent Bearer, is highest and to the south as darkness falls. Use binoculars to find its four largest moons clustered near the brilliant planet. A more powerful telescope will allow you to observe Jupiter’s changing storms, including the Great Red Spot.

Saturn, in Sagittarius the Archer, is located to the left of Jupiter, and it is in the southeast sky in the early evening. It appears similar to a bright golden star to the eye, but a telescope can reveal Saturn’s incomparable system of rings.

The moon starts the month as waxing crescent, and it reaches first quarter on the 7th. After the full moon on the 15th, the moon will rise after sunset. It is last quarter on the 23rd and new on the 30th. August is a great month for viewing the tattered glow of the Milky Way by traveling to a wilderness spot, far from urban light pollution. The best weekends to do this come at the beginning and the end of the month, close to the new moons. Joshua Tree National Park, and many other National Parks now serve as dark sky preserves in order to conserve the rapidly vanishing view of the Milky Way’s beautiful glow as the increasing glow of artificial lights hides the night sky.

**BEACHWOOD from page 1**

“The stuff that’s happening now is incomparable system of rings,” Pampanin said.

Los Angeles had another record setting year of tourism, clocking 50 million visitors to the region in 2018, according to the Los Angeles Tourism & Convention Board. And many of those visitors yearn to take a selfie with the sign, even trampling through residential neighborhoods—on foot and in cars—along the way.

Since social media and GPS became ubiquitous, homeowners near the sign have complained of clogged narrow streets, smoking tourists trampling hedges and some folks even knocking on homeowners’ front doors to use a restroom. And those are the nice ones. Residents have also reported people relieving themselves sometimes wherever they can.

Hollywood Sign neighbors told Ryu’s office they were pleased with the extra enforcement over the July 4th holiday.

“We have heard from the nearby community that this past July 4th weekend was one of the best they’ve seen in years,” Pampanin said.

Saratane Schwartz, a former president of the Hollywoodland Homeowners Assoc. said the extra 4th of July weekend patrols were a good start but a lot more work needs to be done to find a year-round solution to many traffic concerns.

Schwartz cites tourist congestion on Beachwood Drive as one such concern. The street terminates at the former entrance to a popular Griffith Park hiking trail, which offered close-up views of the Hollywood sign.

A judge ordered public access to that trailhead closed in 2017, as part of a settlement between the city and the owners of private equestrian facility Sun-set Ranch, who claimed hikers were trespassing on their private property to access the site. But while the trailhead has now been closed for over two years, according to Schwartz the public still tries to access it.

“Two years after the closure, still over 90% of Beachwood traffic is pedestrians and vehicles going to the end of Beachwood and turning around and going back down the street,” she said. “[The entrance] was reopened—for example, for tour vans—all of the dangerous conditions and gridlock the judge ruled against would return.”

For his part, Ryu’s staff said he’s been working improvements, not only for homeowners, but for visitors alike. One strategy, first raised by former councilmember Tom LaBonge and re-introduced by Ryu in 2018 was running electric shuttles from the Hollywood/Vine and Hollywood/Highland Metro stations to the easement road at the end of Beachwood Drive, presumably along with a new public access point into the park.

That issue, according to city staffers is still being reviewed.

But many in the area aren’t fond of the idea.

“Putting an entrance into Griffith Park at the end of Beachwood to be used by the public, would be considered creating a brand new park entrance and would therefore require a full and very costly,” environmental review, Schwartz said.

Also being considered is a plan to build a visitors’ center in the hills—on the Glendale side—and an aerial tram that would ferry people to the Hollywood Sign. The city announced in July it had hired an engineering consulting firm to undertake the study.

Regarding the recent long weekend, LAPD’s Brian White said officer’s focus was to keep traffic moving on Beachwood Drive.

“The stuff that’s happening up there is minor but it causes back up because of the small streets,” he said. “I just focus on the things I can enforce.”

see BEACHWOOD page 23
NEWS

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SCHOOL NEWS

SILVER LAKE - After responding to a call for a “child abuse investigation” at P.L.A.Y. Preschool June 10th, the Los Angeles Police Dept. (LAPD) said July 11th that no crime was committed at the facility and the department has closed its investigation, according to LAPD Officer Jesse Aispuro.

Meanwhile, the California Dept. of Social Services is reviewing three separate allegations, including a June 21st article on the website LAist, of alleged improper discipline at the preschool, according to department spokesperson Adam Weintraub.

The two agencies work closely together on such investigations.

“If they discover any additional information pertinent to the investigation, they will notify us,” said Aispuro.

According to the state’s Dept. of Social Services website, which tracks inspections, citations and complaints at childcare centers throughout the state, P.L.A.Y., which opened in 2017, has received no complaints. The site is updated weekly.

The preschool has, however, received one inspection citation, from last January, for not labeling some children’s belongings from home, including food and food containers.

The bill also reduces the list of medical conditions that would qualify for an exemption.

The bill has drawn opponents to the Capitol, including parents, anti-vaccination advocate Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and actress Jessica Biel.

They argue medical decisions should be made between a patient and doctor without interference by government agencies.

LAUSD students and their siblings who do not have health insurance can receive free immunizations at school-based clinics.

BEACHWOOD from page 22

He said officers will assuredly crack down on no smoking laws if they see people lighting up in hillside communities. And with authorities warning about the high risk of fires through the remainder of the summer and into the fall, many are still concerned that safety is being sacrificed.

According to Lake Hollywood resident Tony Fisch, there have been seven fires in his neighborhood since 2011. Luckily, he said, they weren’t fed by hot Santa Ana winds. He argues that the ongoing traffic and parking problems continue to pose a public safety risk and Ryu should bear the blame for not putting a stop to them.

“Councilmember Ryu broke every campaign promise he made for shutting illegal parcels and finding safe areas for tourism,” Fisch said. “He promised so he could get elected only.”

Ryu was elected in 2015 and will be up for reelection in 2020.

VACCINES from page 21

but which Gov. Gavin Newsom said he supported, is aimed at punishing doctors who improperly issue medical exemptions. The state Dept. of Public Health, which oversees vaccinations, would be allowed to bar certain doctors from writing medical exemptions for up to two years if they are deemed to pose a public health risk.

The departmental reviews would only occur at schools with immunization rates of less than 95% or for doctors who grant five or more medical exemptions in a year.

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OFF MARKET LISTING in Los Feliz Hills

3827 Carnavon Way • Tudor Revival • Call For Price

Stunning restoration in this elegantly presented 1930s 3+2.5 French Chateau, designed & built by F. Scott Crowhurst and magazine published. Sweeping views of the hills & city, and the idyllic garden. Enjoy a grand LR w/a dramatic wood thatched ceiling. Cook’s kitchen, luxurious baths and a yard that’s perfect for entertaining.

FOR LEASE in Atwater

2054 New Hampshire Ave • Spanish • Call For Price

Lovely 1 story 3+2 1920’s residence. Gorgeous liv rm and large formal dining room with a beautiful built-in buffet. The charming kitchen & cozym den lead out to a wonderful flat yard & lovely patio under a large arbor. Updated bathrooms, Hardwood floors, AC. Enclosed porch off DR for poss home office. Finish garage too!

SOLD in Mt. Washington

2201 Vista Del Mar • Cottage • Call For Price

Charm galore in this 1930’s 2+2 Traditional home. Step down into a spacious living room with fireplace and peg and groove hardwood floors that’s surrounded by windows. Spacious DR. Nice floor plan & a charming kitchen that leads to a cozy patio. Many original details throughout. 1st time on the market in 30+ years!

FOR LEASE in Silver Lake

1684 Rotary Drive • For Lease • $8,500

Stunning 4+5 2-story architectural with fabulous views from downtown skyscrapers to the Silver Lake Hillside. Open kitchen to family room. Each bedroom with its own bath. Large master suite. Wraparound deck to take in the views. Lots of natural lighting. Spacious 3470 sq ft home. A stunning home in a great area!

FOR LEASE in Los Feliz

2441 Lyric Avenue • Modern Contemporary • $6,700

As they say you can’t always judge a book by its cover, well this is definitely one of those! Very understated on the exterior, but really modern and spacious on the inside! Spacious LR w/fireplace & high pitched wood ceiling. Gorgeous wood flrs. AC New master bath. Freshly painted interior. Den with fireplace. Deck.

FOR LEASE in Beachwood Canyon

3525 Dover Street • Traditional • $5,750


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All my best,
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