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smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

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Volume 23 Issue 70 THE WEEKENDER 2/23-2/25 smdp.com

Legendary local store Ursula’s Costumes faces its final curtain call

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

Legendary local fancy dress and wardrobe store Ursula’s Costumes at 2516 Wilshire Blvd is facing imminent closure. While a closing date hasn’t been officially set, owner Ursula Boschet is so sure that she’ll be forced to permanently shut her doors, she’s put a massive “Closing Down Sale” banner across both the front window and the store’s website.

A trip to Ursula’s Costumes is just as much of a mind blowing experience as visiting a museum dedicated to the history of Hollywood wardrobe. Entire shelves and drawers are devoted to wigs, watches, ties, toupeés, masquerade masks and mustaches. Every conceivable nook and cranny is crammed full of fancy dress outfits and accessories including coats, cloaks, hats, helmets, gowns, gloves, jackets, jump suits, space suits, shirts, skirts, shorts and shoes from all eras and every chapter of cinema.

“The lease has been up for quite some time. I pay month by month, but I couldn’t pay the full amount [that is owed],” Ursula said, adding that she received nothing in the way of financial aid during the pandemic and that business still hasn’t returned to normal. “Business is really, really slow,” she said.

Ursula, who turns 90 on May 1, has retained her Stuttgart accent and has been in the wardrobe and costume business her whole life. The store at the Wilshire Blvd site has been her sole outlet for 30 years and for 18 years before that, she operated out of a studio in Culver



Scott Snowden

SEE **URSULA’S COSTUMES** PAGE 12

COSTUMES: Famed Santa Monica dress and wardrobe store Ursula’s Costumes is facing an imminent closure..



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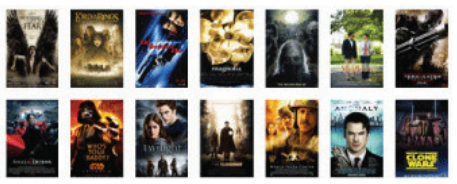


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City Hall murals will be "recontextualized" in new plan approved by City Council



Scott Snowden

MURAL: City Council unanimously voted to direct City staff to begin the implementation phase of the Reframe: City Hall Mural project.

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

The mural inside City Hall will remain but officials have approved plans to eventually install new artwork in the lobby and expanded signage addressing the controversy around the Stanton Macdonald-Wright image.

After some lengthy discussion, Council voted unanimously to Direct City staff to begin the implementation phase of the Reframe: City Hall Mural project, starting with planning for 10 recommendations included in the report.

The murals concerned are a pair of 1939 Stanton Macdonald Wright paintings that hang on the walls either side of the main doors of Santa Monica City Hall. Less than a decade ago, they became the subject of controversy due to the interpreted depiction of native Americans and the framing of Santa Monica's history.

One displays the first contact between the Europeans and native Tongva, while the other shows popular activities from the City's past including polo, tennis, auto races, aviation and sailing. Discussions regarding how best to proceed with this issue go back as far as May 2021, when the report presented to Council on Tuesday was originally commissioned.

"It's thick and comprehensive," said Sofia Klatzker, Cultural Affairs Manager, City of Santa Monica as she added that it was 106 pages long.

"The culminating report before you is the documentation of this community process, an investigation into the complex history of how the mural came to be and how perceptions and attitudes have changed in the intervening years," Klatzker said.

> The culminating report before you is the documentation of this community process, an investigation into the complex history of how the mural came to be and how perceptions and attitudes have changed in the intervening years
> - Sofia Klatzker, Cultural Affairs Manager, City of Santa Monica

The report itself was undertaken by Meztli Projects, an "indigenous based arts and culture collaborative centering Indigeneity into the creative practice of Los Angeles by using arts-based strategies to support,

SEE **MURAL** PAGE 15

Citywide registry could act as ‘safety net’ for local renters

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

Santa Monica may be following in the footsteps of other local jurisdictions in the creation of a database of all rental units in the city including both rent controlled and market-rate options.

During the Feb. 8 meeting of the city’s Rent Control Board, Council Office and Legislative Affairs Liaison Josh Kurpies presented an outline for a Citywide Rent Registry, data that would allow the City to track allowable rent increases, monitor compliance with the City’s rent and just cause for eviction ordinance, and communicate rental unit data on a regular basis to owners and tenants alike.

While rent controlled tenants have long been tracked and monitored by the Rent Control Board, the new list would enable officials to communicate with, track and protect tenants outside the Rent Control sphere. Similar registries have been implemented in Los Angeles County as well as West Hollywood, and Kurpies stated it will act “as a vital safety net for renters” in Santa Monica who differ in their renting scenarios.

“As much as all of (rent) protections ... are great things, they’re complicated and confusing and (it) created a multi-tiered system ... some people (in Santa Monica) are protected by rent control, some people are not protected by rent control but (are) protected by just cause evictions, and then you’ve got another layer of people who are protected by the statewide cap on their rental increase but that also creates a group that is not ... you basically have four tiers of different people in different situations depending on the length of their tenancy and the building that they live in,” Kurpies said.

While details are still being worked out, the potential registry would identify all rental units in the city. Kurpies said there are approximately 26,689 rent controlled units in the city per recent information provided by the Rent Control Board. As no database exists for total non-controlled units, Kurpies said he is still working to identify that number but based on business license data he said the city has about 560 uncontrolled parcels of land containing one or more units. This data excludes units like hospitals, nursing facilities, government housing and owner-occupied units.

According to a 2021 analysis, Santa Monica had about 52,629 total housing units at that time. Of those, 22 percent were single family homes, 77.6 percent were multifamily and 0.4 percent were mobile homes. At that time, about 71.4 percent of total residents were renters.

Collected data for the registry from property owners include name, property management, on-site manager and 24-hour emergency contact, forms that Kurpies said owners are “used to filling out.” Other information would be on a specific unit, such as the unit number/letter, services included in rent, the size of the unit, occupancy status and parking availability. Tenancy-related data would include move-in date, initial rent, current rent, date and amount of the most recent rent increase. Information about specific tenants, such as name and contact information, is still being discussed due to potential privacy issues.

Kurpies noted that this clarifying information being readily available would also measure emerging trends around displacement and gauge a true sense of vacancy inventory in the city.

> We often hear people say there’s so many vacancies in our city, we don’t need to build anymore, but we know that that’s not the full truth
> - Liaison Josh Kurpies

“We often hear people say there’s so many vacancies in our city, we don’t need to build anymore, but we know that that’s not the full truth,” Kurpies said. “This would allow us to have a better idea of what units are vacant and how long they’re vacant and what the reasons are.”

Financing for the registry is focused on start-up costs, since Kurpies said the program will “pay for itself” once up and running because of fees associated with entering information for the project. Primary costs include contracting for software, community outreach with local stakeholders, as well as new staffing in a to be determined city department. Kurpies said the intention was not to just “hand it off” to someone already working for the city, and that new staff could potentially be placed in the city’s Housing Office or Business Licensing team for the task.

Rent Control Board Commissioner Anastasia Foster agreed that the fee structure associated with the project would have to create a new position in the city, or potentially a small department. Foster added that the potential registry is “a long time coming” for Santa Monica.

“Whether it’s finding motivation for our landlords who are holding their units empty, for whatever reason they’re doing so, whether it’s motivating them through one means or another to rent those units, which is what we ultimately want, or whether it’s for owner identification purposes ... this database will go a long way ... (having) another human being at the other end of the rent check, I think that’s a really important goal of this database.”

Foster offered several suggestions to bolster the plan, such as being in favor of annual data collection and opposing the exclusion of owner-occupied units because they may not stay that way, and they should be in the system as knowledge of the properties’ existence.

“If we’re really gonna study rent levels, if we’re really gonna study occupancy

SEE **REGISTRY** PAGE 12



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **59.5**

FRIDAY
POOR TO FAIR
SURF: 1-2ft
Knee to thigh

Smaller WNW swell in the morning. A fresh round of WNW swell to build in through the end of the day, adding some occasional chest-high waves to the mix before sundown for spots out west.

SATURDAY
POOR TO FAIR
SURF: 1-2ft
Knee to thigh

Lining up another modest size pulse of WNW swell with favorable conditions on the cards. High tide in the AM will be an issue for many spots with the swell size.

Weather

Friday: Patchy fog before 10am. Otherwise, cloudy, then gradually becoming mostly sunny, with a high near 73.
Friday Night: Patchy fog after 10pm. Otherwise, increasing clouds, with a low around 54. West wind around 5 mph.
Saturday: Patchy fog before 10am. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 70. Northeast wind around 5 mph.
Saturday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 53.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2024/02/23	Fri	02:18 AM	1.59	L
2024/02/23	Fri	08:21 AM	5.62	H
2024/02/23	Fri	3:14 PM	-0.65	L
2024/02/23	Fri	9:31 PM	4.10	H
2024/02/24	Sat	02:48 AM	1.37	L
2024/02/24	Sat	08:50 AM	5.48	H
2024/02/24	Sat	3:35 PM	-0.45	L
2024/02/24	Sat	9:51 PM	4.22	H
2024/02/25	Sun	03:20 AM	1.20	L
2024/02/25	Sun	09:19 AM	5.21	H
2024/02/25	Sun	3:56 PM	-0.17	L
2024/02/25	Sun	10:11 PM	4.35	H
2024/02/26	Mon	03:53 AM	1.08	L
2024/02/26	Mon	09:49 AM	4.82	H
2024/02/26	Mon	4:15 PM	0.18	L
2024/02/26	Mon	10:32 PM	4.46	H
2024/02/27	Tue	04:29 AM	1.02	L
2024/02/27	Tue	10:21 AM	4.33	H

Daily Lottery

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Powerball
Draw Date: 2/21
4 27 33 41 42
Power#: 14
Jackpot: 376 M

Mega Millions
Draw Date: 2/20
5 45 55 58 68
Mega#: 7
Jackpot: 525 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 2/21
1 10 17 34 45
Mega#: 14
Jackpot: 12 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 2/21
11 13 16 19 25

Daily 3
Draw Date: 2/21
EVENING: 9 8 4
Draw Date: 2/21
MIDDAY: 4 8 3

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 2/21
1st: 03 - Hot Shot
2nd: 12 - Lucky Charms
3rd: 09 - Winning Spirit
Race Time: 1:42.24

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Santa Monica Daily Press

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Gavin Newsom's new budget is already leaking red ink as revenues fall behind

DAN WALTERS

While Gov. Gavin Newsom gallivants around the country as a campaign surrogate for President Joe Biden – and to burnish his own national image – the state budget he proposed just six weeks ago is falling apart at the seams.

Last week, his Department of Finance indirectly acknowledged the budget's problems, reporting that through January revenues were running $5.9 billion behind the new budget's assumption for the current fiscal year.

On Tuesday, the Legislative Analyst's Office, which advises the Legislature, increased its estimate of the budget's deficit, which Newsom had originally pegged at $38 billion, to an eye-popping $73 billion after toting up Newsom's proposals and decreasing its revenue estimate.

If the downward revenue trend continues, the 2023-24 budget could wind up in a deep hole and there will be much less money available for the 2024-25 fiscal year that begins on July 1.

The shortfall was particularly acute in January, a key month on the fiscal calendar because quarterly payments for personal income taxes were due. The month's income tax payments were $5 billion below the $20.4 billion the administration expected to collect.

When he unveiled his 2024-25 budget in January, Newsom proposed a series of fiscal maneuvers to close the gap, very few of which were actual spending reductions.

He tapped the state's emergency reserve and dug deeply into the bag of tools that the state has historically used to paper over deficits, including spending deferrals, loans from special funds and accounting tricks, such as a maneuver involving school aid.

The Legislature's budget analyst, Gabe Petek, had originally estimated the deficit at $68 billion, largely due to revenue projections about $15 billion lower than the governor's over the three-year "budget window," from 2022-23 through 2024-25. He later declared that Newsom's action could offset a $58 billion shortfall. On Tuesday, however, Petek's staff added $15 billion to the estimated deficit, bringing it to $73 billion.

The new revenue numbers and projections imply that Petek's scenario is much closer to reality than Newsom's. They also imply that, if Newsom is trying to skate through the final three years of his governorship without making some basic fiscal adjustments, he'll leave a big mess for his successor.

The deficit, whatever its true dimensions, appears to be detached from California's underlying economy, and is rather what fiscal mavens call a "structural deficit" – one in which baseline revenues and baseline spending are fundamentally imbalanced. And in fact both Newsom's budget and Petek's analysis agree that the state faces deficits of roughly $30 billion a year at least for the remainder of his governorship.

The state's economy may not be booming, but it is generally positive, with low unemployment. Nevertheless, Newsom wants to tap the "rainy day" reserves that are meant to offset a serious economic downturn.

Using reserves now and employing other short-term actions would merely postpone the day of reckoning and worsen its impact.

That danger is illustrated by the aforementioned school aid maneuver, which would, Petek's office says, "allow schools to keep $8 billion in cash disbursement above the minimum requirement without recognizing the budgetary impact of those payments."

"This proposed maneuver is bad fiscal policy," the analysis continues, saying it "creates a binding obligation that will worsen out-year deficits and require more difficult decisions in the future."

If revenues continue to fall behind the Newsom budget's relatively rosy projections, avoiding hard decisions to cut spending and/or raise taxes would require even more elaborate budgetary tricks like the school finance sleight-of-hand that would make future budgets even more imbalanced.

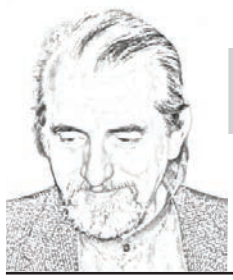
Petek wants his bosses in the Legislature to get real with true cuts in spending, particularly money for items that had been budgeted but not yet spent. But doing so means they would have to reduce spending that their allies, such as public employee unions and advocates for educational, health care or social services, want to preserve, or raise taxes that are already among the nation's highest.

That's why they will be tempted to adopt a bag of tricks, regardless of future impact.

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

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OPINION **NOTEWORTHY**

Charles Andrews | Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Jacaranda, Shawn Phillips!

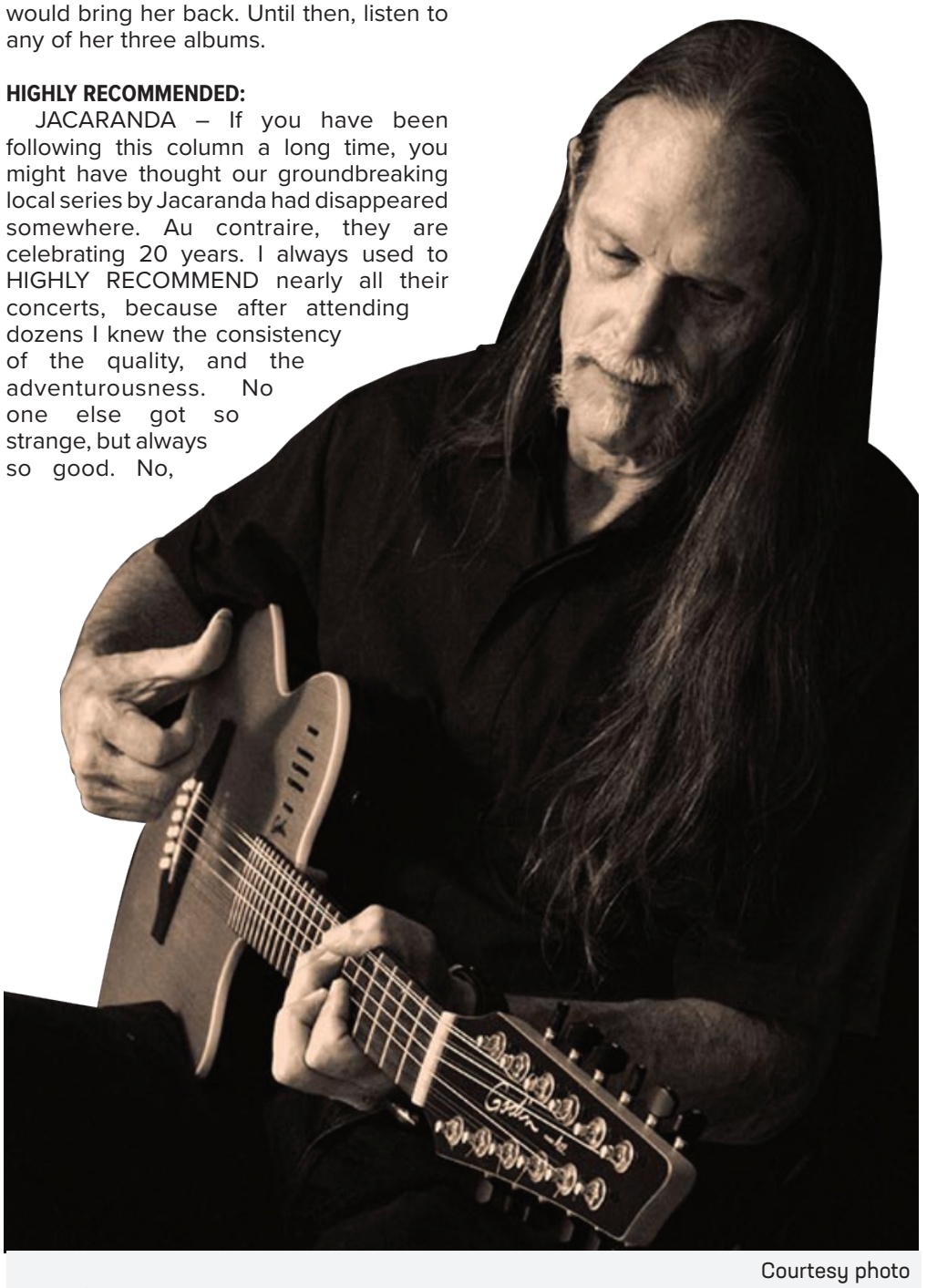
NO

As in LIZZY NO, who rocked the joint at McCabe's last weekend. I told you in last week's NOTEWORTHY that I had taken unusual measures to check her out and recommend her, and it paid off. An exceptional, memorable show. Her band was off the charts, especially her shredding guitar man. (This is folk music?) She did play a small, strapped-on harp on several numbers. I have learned, over decades, that instinct (based on more than 3,000 live shows) should be acknowledged when I feel the nudge. McCabe's booker Wayne Griffith also took a chance because she is not a household name, yet. But he has great instincts in spades. He told the nearly-full house he would bring her back. Until then, listen to any of her three albums.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED:

JACARANDA – If you have been following this column a long time, you might have thought our groundbreaking local series by Jacaranda had disappeared somewhere. Au contraire, they are celebrating 20 years. I always used to HIGHLY RECOMMEND nearly all their concerts, because after attending dozens I knew the consistency of the quality, and the adventurousness. No one else got so strange, but always so good. No, their absence from NOTEWORTHY was my error(s). I get most of my info from a few places and they weren't listed there. But no excuses. I proffer a full mea culpa here, to readers who may have missed something wondrous. But enough apology: they have two outstanding programs this Sunday, right here in SM. Their "resident" string quartet, The Lyris Quartet, will be playing, and they are worth the whole price of admission. It's called "Fierce Beauty," Parts I and II, the first at 4 p.m., and Part II at 7. How about Schoenberg, Boulez, Ornstein, and Coltrane's "A Love Supreme" at

SEE **NOTEWORTHY** PAGE 10



Courtesy photo

MUSIC: Shawn Phillips will be playing at McCabe's in Santa Monica on Saturday.

California's rainy season is here. What does it mean for water supply?

JOHN ANTCZAK
Associated Press

After a dry start to winter, California's rainy season is finally well under way.

December downpours sent water racing through streets in coastal Ventura County and the city of Santa Barbara. Flash floods hit San Diego in late January, and back-to-back atmospheric river-fueled storms arrived earlier this month, causing wind damage in Northern California and hundreds of mudslides in Los Angeles. Yet another storm blew through over Presidents Day weekend.

The frequent deluges have fended off a return to the drought that has plagued the state over the past decade. Some parts of California are so wet these days that even Death Valley National Park has a lake big enough for kayakers. Still, the state is not on pace for a repeat of last year's epic rain. And the mountains haven't seen nearly as much snow.

Here's a look at California's winter so far:

HAS ALL THIS RAIN HELPED?

Downtown Los Angeles has received nearly 17.8 inches (45.2 centimeters) of rain, already more than an entire year's worth of annual precipitation, which is measured from Oct. 1 to Sept. 30 of the following year. This is now the fourth-wettest February in downtown since weather records began in 1877, according to the National Weather Service.

But while rainfall has reached historic levels in Southern California, it remains to be seen if the year will be regarded as very wet for the state overall.

Northern California is only just approaching its annual average, with about a month and a half to go for the wet season, which "makes it very hard to get 'extremely wet,' " said Jay R. Lund, vice-director of the Center for Watershed Sciences at the University of California, Davis.

"We're already wet enough that it's not going to be a deep drought year, and the really wet years, they are already much wetter than this," Lund said.

> "We're already wet enough that it's not going to be a deep drought year, and the really wet years, they are already much wetter than this
>
> - Jay R. Lund, vice-director of the Center for Watershed Sciences at the University of California

WHAT ABOUT SNOW?

The vital Sierra Nevada snowpack, which normally supplies about 30% of California's water when it melts, has rebounded somewhat from a slow start.

The snowpack's water content Wednesday was 86% of normal amounts to date and 69% of the April 1 average, when it is normally at its peak, according to the state Department of Water Resources.

On Jan. 30, the water content was just 52% of the average for that date — a far cry from a year earlier when it was around 200% of its average content, thanks to repeated atmospheric rivers that dramatically ended California's driest three-year period on record.

WERE RESERVOIRS REPLENISHED?

Even with the laggard start to the current rainy season, water storage in California's major reservoirs has been well above average thanks to runoff from last year's historic snowpack.

Some reservoirs have been releasing water into rivers to make room for incoming storm runoff and maintain flood control protection for downstream areas.

The Department of Water Resources announced Wednesday that the State Water Project is forecasting that public water agencies serving 27 million people will receive 15% of requested supplies, up from December's initial 10% allocation.

The department said that the assessment doesn't include the impact of storms this month, and the allocation could be further revised in mid-March.

Lake Oroville, the State Water Project's largest reservoir, was at 134% of its average amount to date, but the department noted that the Northern California headwaters of the State Water Project saw below-average precipitation from storms over the past two months.

Contractors of the Central Valley Project, a federally run system that supplies major farming districts, will also receive 15% of their requested water supplies, federal authorities said Wednesday. That could change with more storms.

BLACH CONSTRUCTION

INVITATION FOR SUBCONTRACTOR BIDS

Pursuant to California Education Code 17406, notice is hereby given that subcontractor bids will be received by Blach Construction – 3090 Bristol Street, Costa Mesa 92626. Bids must be received in accordance with Blach Construction's instructions by **Friday, February 23rd, 2024 at 2PM.** It is the bidder's responsibility to ensure timely delivery via Building Connected.

SMASH-Muir ES Water Intrusion Repairs
Bids Due: Friday, February 23rd, 2024 at 2PM

Project Scope:
Heating, Ventilating and Air Conditioning, and Plumbing

Subcontractors Required:
C-20 Warm-Air Heating, Ventilating and Air Conditioning, C-36 Plumbing Mechanical, Electrical, and Plumbing contractors must be prequalified to perform work.

Job Walk (Non-Mandatory): TBD. Information on the job walk to be provided through Building Connected. The job walk to be held at John Muir Elementary School located at 2526 6th St. Santa Monica, CA 90405.

Requests for Information (RFI's): Pre-bid requests for information for this project due date is TBD. Information to be provided through Building Connected. Bidders are required to indicate the project name in the title of your request submission. Submit all requests for information to Justin Gilbert at justin.gilbert@blach.com

Contract Bid Documents: Copies of the bid & contract documents including drawings and specifications are available through Building Connected. Contractors are required to submit Blach Construction prequalification questionnaire in order to be selected for the project. Please reach out to Justin Gilbert with Blach Construction at (209) 505- 2551 or justin.gilbert@blach.com for access as needed.

Prevailing Wage and Skilled & Trained Workforce Requirements: Per Public Contract Code 2601 and 2602 as well as Senate Bill 693, all subcontractors at every tier must adhere to Skilled & Trained Workforce Requirements. Additionally, prevailing wage is required on this project.

Additional information is provided in Blach Construction's Bid Documents. The Contractor and all Subcontractors under the Contractor shall pay all workers on all work performed pursuant to this Contract not less than the general prevailing rate of per diem wages and the general prevailing rate for holiday and overtime work as determined by the Director of the Department of Industrial Relations, State of California, for the type of work performed and the locality in which the work is to be performed within the boundaries of the District, pursuant to sections 1770 et seq. of the California Labor Code. Prevailing wage rates are also available from the District or on the Internet at: <http://www.dir.ca.gov>.

The successful bidder will be required to have the appropriate State of California Contractor's License to perform the work current at the time of submission to bid.

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City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites sealed proposals for

- **RFP #402: HUMAN SERVICES GRANTS PROGRAM (HSGP) GRANTEE MONITORING SERVCES**
- **Submission Deadline Is March 15, 2024 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.**

Proposals must include forms furnished by the City of Santa Monica. Request for Proposals may be obtained on the **CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL**. The website for this Request for Proposals and related documents is ProcureNow (https://secure.procurenow.com/portal/santa-monica-ca). There is no charge for the RFP package.

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites sealed proposals for

- **RFP: TEMPORARY STAFFING SERVICES**
- **Submission Deadline Is March 14, 2024 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.**

Proposals must include forms furnished by the City of Santa Monica. Request for Proposals may be obtained on the **CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL.** The website for this Request for Proposals and related documents is OpenGov (https://secure.procurenow.com/portal/santa-monica-ca). There is no charge for the RFP package.

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites Proposals for:

Airport As-Needed Land Surveying Services
Project No. SP2695

The City of Santa Monica is inviting proposals from firms interested in providing **as-needed surveying** services for the **Airport As-Needed Land Surveying Services.**

The purpose of the RFP is to select the most qualified consultant to **provide boundary, topographic, legal descriptions, parcel maps, etc. services** of the subject project.

RFP questions to be submitted to **via OpenGov**, no later than 4:00 p.m. on **February 19, 2024.**

Proposers shall upload RFP **via OpenGov**, no later than **4:00 p.m. on March 4, 2024.** **Size of the electronic proposal shall not exceed 10 MB.**

RFP Documents may be obtained by logging onto the City's bidding website at: https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/santa-monica-ca.



LIONS ROAR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com



Courtesy photo
LIONS: left to right. Luke Schneeman, Lion Gail Litvack (student Speaker Chair), Carter Yean

The Santa Monica Pacific Palisades Lions Club this month hosted the first round of the Multiple District 4 Lions Student Speaker Contest at the Santa Monica Elks Lodge. It was an inspiring evening as we listened to two Pacific Palisades High School students give us their visions on the topic "For A Better World, What Would You Do?" Using two different approaches to the topic, as well as separate speaking styles, both participants gave critiques of today, with hope for a better future. It was a close contest this year, with Luke Schneeman stressing the need for empathy and Carter Yean focusing on climate change. In the end Luke was selected to advance to the Zone level contest to be held in a few weeks.

We would like to thank our three judges, Terry Green, Santa Monica College professor, Henry Waither, retired attorney, and Jill Kalbrosky, LAUSD teacher, for their time, expertise and thoughtful discussions with the participants following the competition. They were impressed by both young men.

The next event coming up for the SMPP Lions is the annual Arts & Literacy Festival at Virginia Avenue Park, on Saturday, April 27, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. The theme this year is The Robots Are Here! This year we will be helping preschool age children assemble simple robots. If you would like to join our volunteers for a 3-hour shift in the morning or afternoon, please let us know at smpplionsclub@gmail.com. This is a great chance for middle and high school students to earn community service hours, helping children with craft projects and handing out stickers.

As I mentioned last month we have a new meeting schedule. Monthly dinner meetings are now on the 4th Wednesday of each month for March, April, and May. All meetings continue to be at 6:00 pm and are held at the SM Elks Lodge. If you are interested in possibly becoming a member or joining us in any of our community activities, please contact Kingsley at 310-454-2960 or smpplionsclub@gmail.com. You can also learn more about us from our Facebook, Instagram and website.

SEND YOUR NEWS TO THE EDITOR

Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

HOA HOMEFRONT

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

New Law Restricting Watering of HOA "Nonfunctional Turf"

KELLY G. RICHARDSON, ESQ. CCAL

Dear Mr. Richardson: Can you address AB1572 which will have a huge effect financially on our HOA? B.W., San Diego

Dear B.W.: Even though 2024 is expected to be a drought-free year, California is historically prone to periods of drought. On October 13, 2023, the Governor signed into law Assembly Bill 1572, creating a new Water Code Section 10608.14. [So now, in addition to Civil, Government, Corporations, and Vehicle Codes, there are also Water Code sections specifically affecting HOAs.]

This new statute requires various property owners, including common interest development associations, to remove "nonfunctional turf" or irrigate it with reclaimed water. HOAs are required to stop using potable water to irrigate nonfunctional turf or to remove such turf from common areas by the end of 2028.

"Nonfunctional turf" is defined by Water Code Section 10608.12 as "turf that is not functional turf." "Functional turf" is defined as "a ground cover surface of turf located in a recreational use area or community space. Turf enclosed by fencing or other barriers to permanently preclude human access for recreation or assembly is not functional turf." "Turf" means a "ground cover surface of mowed grass." (Title 23 California Code of Regulations Section 491(zzz))

The law allows HOAs to use potable water to irrigate trees and other non-turf plantings.

HOAs must achieve compliance with this new law by January 1, 2029. However, given the aforementioned definitions, only mowed grass areas that are enclosed and not accessible to residents appear to be defined as "nonfunctional turf." Therefore, most HOAs probably will not be greatly impacted. However, mowed grass areas that are purely decorative and not available for residents to enjoy appear to fall under this restriction, so HOAs should plan on supplying such areas with reclaimed water or simply removing any mowed turf from the location.

HOAs with over 5,000 square feet of irrigated common area must every three years provide a certification of compliance to the State Water Board. Thousands of HOAs have that much irrigated common area and will have to certify compliance, and the first certification is due on June 30, 2031.

The penalties for noncompliance are found in Water Code Section 1846, which provides for penalties of up to $500 per day of violation. The State could also sue to enforce the law and collect the penalties.

B.W., while the law's goal of increasing potable water conservation is laudable, and although it won't have substantially affect most HOAs, there is still the reporting requirement every three years to reckon with. Will the Water Board consider the failure to timely file a report to be a single $500 violation, or will it consider each day to be a separate violation? Will the Water Board establish a form for these reports? Can they be submitted electronically? These are questions that remain to be sorted out in the coming years as the Water Board implements this statute.

If your HOA has more than 5,000 square feet of common area, the reporting deadline of June 30, 2031 should be calendared to avoid late filing.

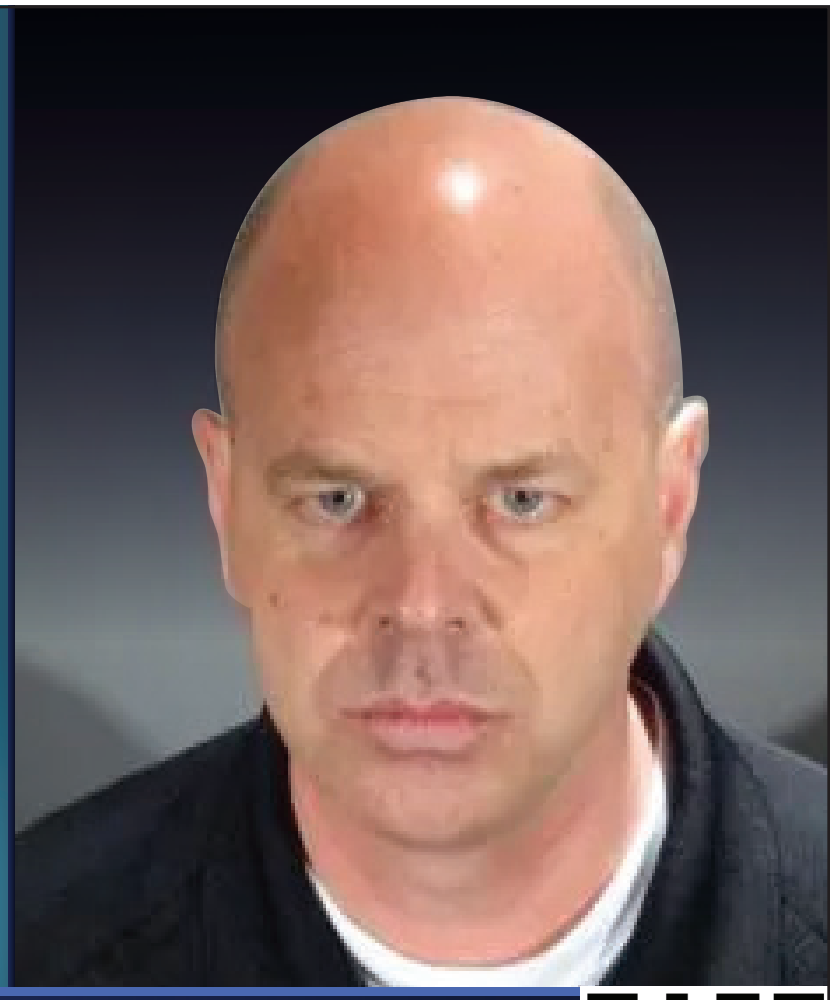
So, B.W., hopefully the impact on your HOA will not be as great as feared. Thanks for your question, Kelly

To read any California statute or bill, the official website is www.leginfo.legislature.ca.gov.

Kelly G. Richardson, Esq. is a Fellow of the College of Community Association Lawyers and Partner of Richardson Ober LLP, a California law firm known for community association advice. Submit potential column questions to kelly@roattorneys.com. Past columns at www.HOAHomefront.com. All rights reserved®.

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SEEKING ERIC ULLER TIPSTERS



Do you have information that can shed light on how Eric Uller of Santa Monica's Police Activities League (PAL) was able to sexually abuse hundreds of children in the late 1980s to early 2000s?

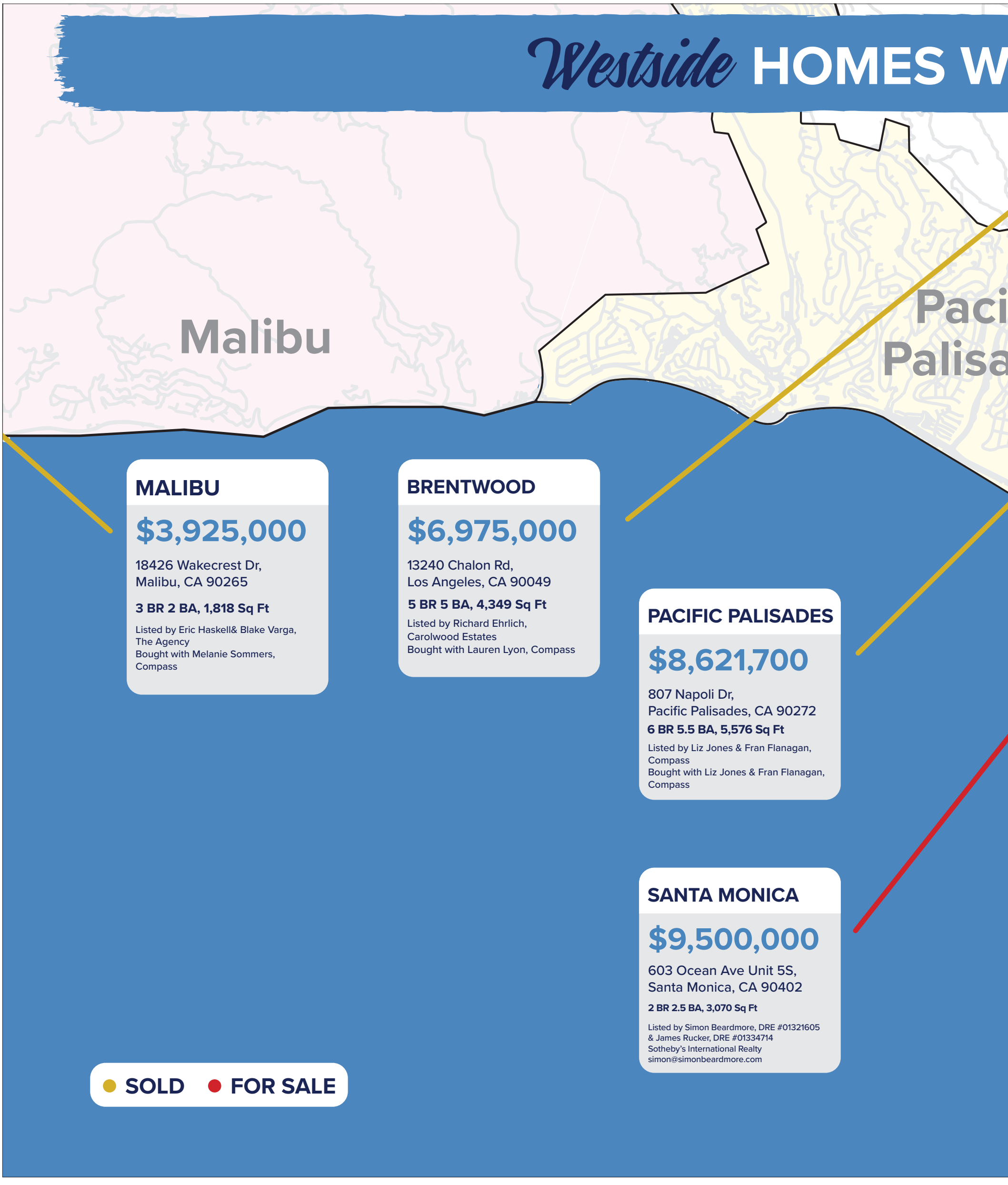
- Why were reports that Uller was sexually abusing children ignored?
- Who at PAL or the Santa Monica Police Department had information?
- How was he able to masquerade as a police officer?

Please contact our firm. Your identity will remain confidential. Help fill in the missing pieces of this puzzle so that we can understand how this happened - for almost 30 years.

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Westside HOMES W



MALIBU

$3,925,000

18426 Wakecrest Dr,
Malibu, CA 90265

3 BR 2 BA, 1,818 Sq Ft

Listed by Eric Haskell& Blake Varga, The Agency
Bought with Melanie Sommers, Compass

BRENTWOOD

$6,975,000

13240 Chalon Rd,
Los Angeles, CA 90049

5 BR 5 BA, 4,349 Sq Ft

Listed by Richard Ehrlich, Carolwood Estates
Bought with Lauren Lyon, Compass

PACIFIC PALISADES

$8,621,700

807 Napoli Dr,
Pacific Palisades, CA 90272

6 BR 5.5 BA, 5,576 Sq Ft

Listed by Liz Jones & Fran Flanagan, Compass
Bought with Liz Jones & Fran Flanagan, Compass

SANTA MONICA

$9,500,000

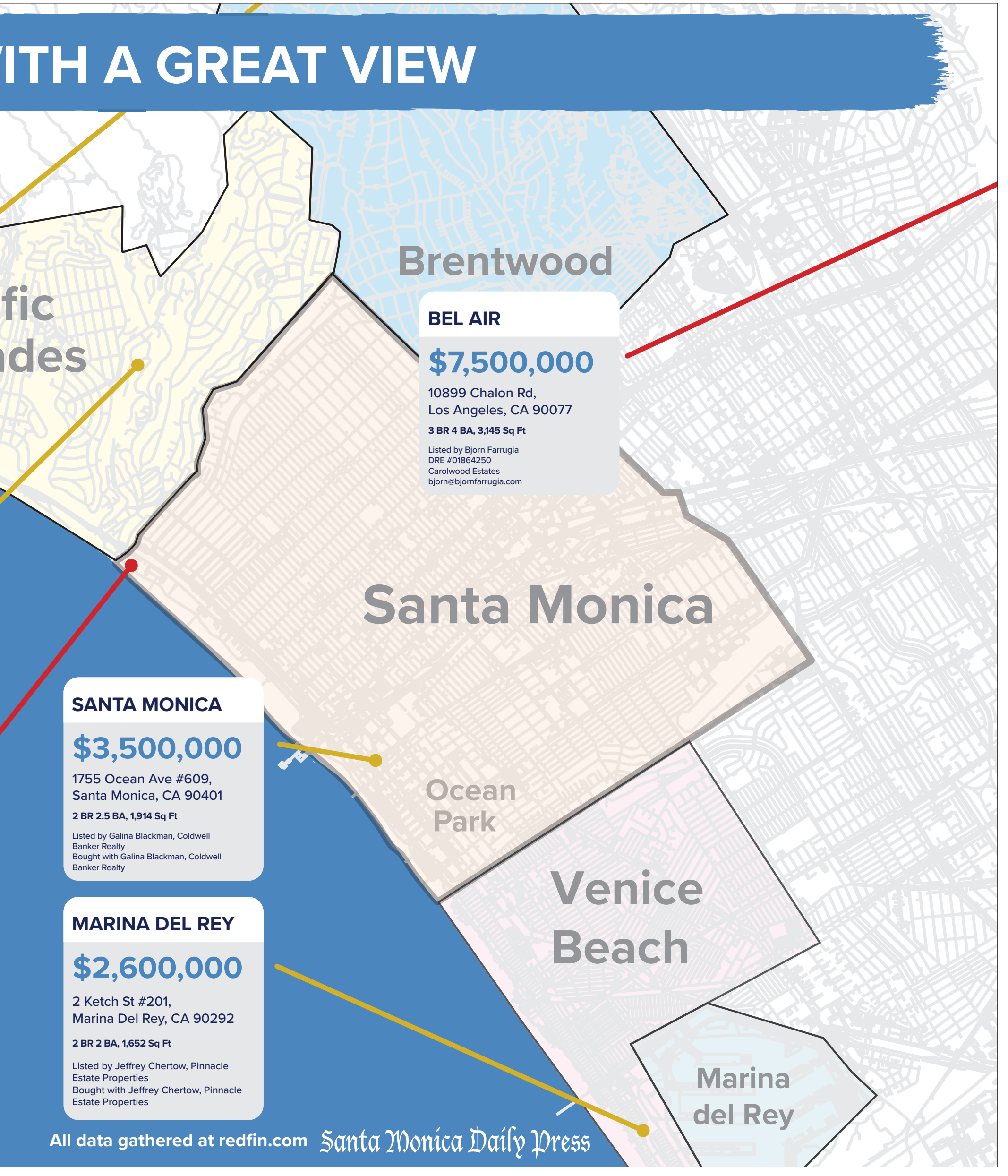
603 Ocean Ave Unit 5S,
Santa Monica, CA 90402

2 BR 2.5 BA, 3,070 Sq Ft

Listed by Simon Beardmore, DRE #01321605 & James Rucker, DRE #01334714
Sotheby's International Realty
simon@simonbeardmore.com

● SOLD ● FOR SALE

ITH A GREAT VIEW



BEL AIR

$7,500,000

10899 Chalon Rd,
Los Angeles, CA 90077

3 BR 4 BA, 3,145 Sq Ft

Listed by Bjorn Farrugia
DRE #01864250
Carolwood Estates
bjorn@bjornfarrugia.com

SANTA MONICA

$3,500,000

1755 Ocean Ave #609,
Santa Monica, CA 90401

2 BR 2.5 BA, 1,914 Sq Ft

Listed by Galina Blackman, Coldwell Banker Realty
Bought with Galina Blackman, Coldwell Banker Realty

MARINA DEL REY

$2,600,000

2 Ketch St #201,
Marina Del Rey, CA 90292

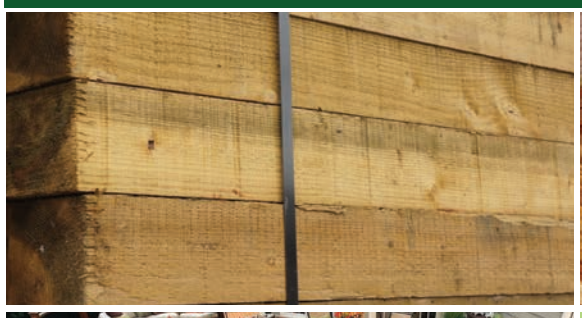
2 BR 2 BA, 1,652 Sq Ft

Listed by Jeffrey Chertow, Pinnacle Estate Properties
Bought with Jeffrey Chertow, Pinnacle Estate Properties

All data gathered at redfin.com Santa Monica Daily Press

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NOTEWORTHY

FROM PAGE 4

4? That evening, Strauss, Rosenman, a Schoenberg chamber symphony, Bach, a little more Schoenberg, and ending with a Mahler adagio. Artistic/Executive Director Patrick Scott has still got it. Sun 4 p.m., 7 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, Santa Monica, $20 student/fixed income, $45 general, each performance.

Last performance! - "AN EXTRAORDINARY ORDINARY MAN" – Extraordinary, indeed. It refers to John Colella's father, a baker, but more importantly to theatre lovers, also this first effort of writing and performing by John II ("my mother was not going to have a grown son being called 'Junior'"). But even "extraordinary" may not be sufficient. This is a tour de force, of writing and acting, that knocks it out of the park. Sure, there were things about his father that were remarkable, but this is really John II's story, and he tells it so rivetingly, with such rapid fire delivery for just over an hour, that you wouldn't want to cough for fear of missing a word. This is the real craft and art of acting. Sat 8 p.m., Ruskin Group Theatre, SMO, $20-30.

HOT CLUB OF LOS ANGELES – You can go to the Cinema Bar any Monday, 9 - 11:30, for more than a decade now, and hear these hot players run through Django Reinhart-style '30s jazz. They should have copies of their new album "Nova" there for sale. Mon 9 p.m., Cinema Bar, Culver City, no cover.

RECOMMENDED:

Tonight! - PRICKLY PAIR, JEFF PLANKENHORN – I didn't do a deep dive on Austinite Plankenhorn like I did on No (see above, also McCabe's), but I had a favorable impression. And c'mon, he's a slide guitar master. For local music fans, though, the big draw is opening act The Prickly Pair, Mason Summit and Irene Greene. Anyone who attended the great monthly spoken word performances at Ruskin Group Theatre here, called Library Girl, literally saw Mason grow up, from age 12, and grow as an artist, as he started performing musical interludes at the series his mother Susan Hayden founded. His maturing songwriting chops have been especially noteworthy. He and Greene met at USC's Thornton School of Music, and their similar outlooks toward music led to a performing duo. Now living in Nashville, it will be a treat to see them take the stage on their own, and get more than one or two songs. Fri 9 p.m McCabe's, Santa Monica, $24.

Tonight! - MALKKI CONDUCTS BRAHMS – Love Brahms. Not too familiar with the "Academic Festival Overture," but the "Piano Concerto #2" is a known killer. Even more so, under the gifted digits of Grammy-winning pianist Daniil Trifonov, whom The Times of London lauded as "without question the most astounding pianist of our age." Never experienced Susanna Mälkki conducting, but have read good things. And, Gustavo does not loan the baton to just anyone. Also, the U.S. premiere of the LA Phil-commissioned "Fett," by Enno Poppe. Fri, Sat 8 p.m., Sun 2 p.m. Walt Disney Concert Hall, LA, $54-229.

SHAWN PHILLIPS – Continuing this week's seat-of-the-pants (but surely spot on) recommendations, this is a show I have been anticipating for months. I haven't followed him nor heard him for years but... I just know this is going to be special. Bill Graham called him "The best kept secret in the music business." He taught Joni Mitchell her first guitar techniques, taught George Harrison his first lessons on sitar, he wrote the music to Donovan's "Season Of The Witch," and has played with the best, at their best, including Eric Clapton and Steve Winwood. If you haven't heard of him, well, judge him by the company he keeps. Sat 8 p.m., McCabe's, Santa Monica, $35.

"IT'S ONLY A SHOW " – I'll have to catch this other one-person show at The Ruskin, because it has been extended longer than "Extraordinary" (see above), which is a don't-miss tour de force. Could we be so fortunate as to have two outstanding productions at the same place, not far away? Only one way to find out. Sat 5 p.m., Ruskin Group Theatre, SMO, $20-30.

TOLEDO DIAMOND – Unique, riveting, first class act. There's nothing like it, it is high performance art and great decadent fun. Degeneracy is rarely so well disciplined. And the band is smokon'! Don't. Miss. Toledo Diamond. Sun 9:30 p.m., Harvelle's, Santa Monica, $12.

COMING ATTRACTIONS: JUDY COLLINS, Luckman Fine Arts Complex, 3/2; TOLEDO DIAMOND, Harvelle's, 3/3, 10, 17, 24, 31; "HIGHWAY 1, USA"/"THE DWARF," LA OPERA, Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 3/3, 6, 9, 14, 17; ROBERT FRIPP, David Singleton, An Evening of Conversation, Questions, Insights, McCabe's, 3/3; DIANNE REEVES, Disney Hall, 3/3; HOT CLUB OF LOS ANGELES, Cinema Bar, 3/4, 11, 18, 25; TERRY REID, McCabe's, 3/8; "IT'S ONLY A SHOW," Ruskin Theatre, 3/9, 16, 23; CHRISTONE "KINGFISH" INGRAM, Fonda Theatre, 3/9; SOUTHSIDE SLIM, Harvelle's, 3/15; PHILIP GLASS, COMPLETE ETUDES, Disney Hall, 3/20; ESA-PEKKA SALONEN, SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY, 3/22; LOS STRAIGHTJACKETS, McCabe's, 3/24; SLEATER-KINNEY, Wiltern, 3/28, Belasco, 3/29; YO YO MA, KATHRYN SCOTT, Disney Hall, 4/3; ETHAN IVERSON TRIO with PETER ERSKINE, DAREK OLES, Sam First, 4/5; KRAFTWERK, Disney Hall, 5/21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 28, 29, 30; CHRIS STAPLETON, Hollywood Bowl, 6/26, 27.

Charles Andrews has listened to a lot of music of all kinds, including more than 3,000 live shows. He has lived in Santa Monica for 37 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. Send love and/or rebuke to him at therealmrmusic@gmail.com

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FRIDAY | FEBRUARY 23

AN EVENING WITH CHRISTY MATHEWSON
The Santa Monica Playhouse will be hosting a showing of "MATTY: An Evening with Christy Mathewson," written and performed by Eddie Frierson and directed by Kerrigan Mahan. "Matty" is the story of Christy Mathewson, legendary pitcher for the New York Giants (1900-1916) who inspired a generation of fans to make baseball America's pastime. Begins at 7:30 p.m., tickets $20, $15 for kids under 12. For more, visit santamonicaplayhouse.com/matty.

GRILLED CHEESE AND WINE PAIRING
In the newest event at Andrew's Cheese Shop, 728 Montana Ave., Santa Monica, the shop will be doing its famous grilled cheeses paired with some amazing and unusual wines. Starts with starter salad with fresh greens, followed by four open grilled cheeses expertly paired with a unique wine and finished off with a float using Elio Perrone's Bigaro, a sweet blend of Moscato and Brachetto. Begins at 7:30 p.m., tickets $80, can be purchased at: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/february-23rd-grilled-cheese-and-wine-pairing-tickets-804210644687.

IRL SHOW
The Crow at Bergamot Station Arts Center, 2525 Michigan Ave, Santa Monica, will host IRL Show: Comedy Show for Teens 13+, beginning at 8 p.m. The Crow orders pizza for everyone and hosts a free teen open mic at 7 p.m., with feedback from a professional comic. Show features curated comedy with comics from HBO, Netflix, Comedy Central and late night TV. Tickets $15, $10 with student ID, for more visit www.crowcomedy.com.

SATURDAY | FEBRUARY 24

SANTA MONICA GREENS FESTIVAL
The City of Santa Monica and the Black Santa Monica Community Group will host the 9th annual Black History Greens Festival, a free community celebration that is part of the city's Black History Month events. This year's theme is "Acknowledging the Past, Living in the Present, Building for the Future." The event begins at 10 a.m. at Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave., Santa Monica. Event attendees can check out greens cooking demos with local chefs in addition to a wide array of activities like book readings and giveaways, dance performances, vendors, wellness information and special guest master of ceremonies Arron "Bobo" Arnell of KHLH Radio. Guests are encouraged to bring picnic blanket and/or lawn chairs. Walking and biking are encouraged.

AUTHOR EVENT
Join local author Christine Van Zandt at the Venice-Abbot Kinney Memorial Branch Library, 501 S. Venice Blvd., Venice, for the release of her new book "Milkweed for Monarchs." Learn about the life cycle of the monarch butterfly and how changing environments make it harder to find food. There will be a butterfly-themed craft and snacks generously provided by the Friends of Venice Library. Begins at 11 a.m.

SUNDAY | FEBRUARY 25

THE STINKFOOT ORCHESTRA FEAT. NAPOLEON MURPHY BROCK - A FRANK ZAPPA TRIBUTE
6:30 p.m. The Venice West, 1717 Lincoln Blvd, Venice $25 to $30. The Stinkfoot Orchestra pulls no punches – delivering two sets of Frank's music via a 14-piece ensemble which incorporates a six-piece horn section, tuned percussion, and five vocalists. This tour features one of Zappa's most beloved vocalists of all time - Napoleon Murphy Brock. As the iconic front man for Frank Zappa's most infamous 1970's ensemble, Napoleon Murphy Brock helped breathe life into many of Frank's most enduring compositions over the course of 4 albums including what many consider to be Zappa's greatest live release, Roxy and Elsewhere. https://www.facebook.com/events/1022023075788118

MAIN STREET FARMERS MARKET
8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
2640 Main Street. The Sunday Main Street Farmers Market features some of California's freshest produce plus prepared foods from local Main Street restaurants as well as artisanal foods prepared with ingredients sourced from California farmers - you can't get more local than that! Also, enjoy musical entertainment from a variety of featured weekly bands, face painting, balloon designs, and bi-weekly cooking demonstrations featuring local produce.

GOAT YOGA IN THE PARK
Marine Park (Next to the Tennis Courts), 1406 Marine St
Goat Yoga is "baaaa"ck! Our adorable goats have missed you and they can't wait to practice with you SAFELY at our new OUTDOOR location! $45
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/goat-yoga-in-the-park-february-25th-at-930am-tickets-776375509047

LES MISÉRABLES: SCHOOL EDITION
1 - 3:30 p.m. Pierson Playhouse, 941 Temescal Canyon Rd, Pacific Palisades. $17 to $22 —General Admission: $22 Students/Seniors: $17 "LES MISÉRABLES SCHOOL EDITION, an adaptation of the Tony Award–winning epic French musical, will be performed February 23rd to March 3rd at the Pierson Playhouse. Some 54 students — ranging in age from 7 to 17, from schools in Pacific Palisades, Brentwood, Santa Monica, Topanga, and as far as Pasadena, West Hollywood, and West Hills — will perform one of the most popular musicals ever, featuring one of the most memorable scores of all time. https://theatrepalisades.org/youth/

PAINT + SIP
Indulge your senses for an afternoon of creativity amidst the greenery at Merrihew's Sunset Gardens, 1526 Ocean Park Blvd., Santa Monica, beginning at 3 p.m. Join artist Flo Mana for a unique paint + sip experience that blends the joys of nature with the pleasures of artistic expression. No prior art experience is needed; this class is designed for all levels of artistic ability. Workshop fee $45, includes materials and sips. To purchase tickets visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/paint-sip-tickets-840727778417.

MONDAY | FEBRUARY 26

COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND THE ENVIRONMENT
The Commission on Sustainability, Environmental Justice and the Environment shall act in an advisory capacity on sustainability, environmental programs and policy issues. The Commission closely monitors the Santa Monica's Sustainable City Plan and advises the Council on plan implementation. The Commission on Sustainability, Environment Justice, and the environment is an expert panel made up of seven (7) members selected by the City Council with 4 year terms. Commissioners must have significant expertise in one or more areas of environmental policy and must reside or work in Santa Monica. Begins at 7 p.m. at Civic Center Parking Structure, 333 Civic Center Dr., Santa Monica.

VIRGINIA AVENUE PARK ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
The Virginia Avenue Park Advisory Board (VAPAB) serves as an advisory body to the Recreation and Parks Commission and the Director of Housing and Human Services Department. Begins at 7 p.m. at Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave., Santa Monica.

AIRPORT COMMISSION
The Commission acts in an advisory capacity to the City Council in matters pertaining to the administration of Santa Monica Municipal Airport and other aviation matters affecting the City. Begins at 7 p.m. at Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main St., Santa Monica.

AN EVENING WITH BILLY DEE WILLIAMS
Billy Dee Williams will be speaking about his memoir, "What Have We Here?: Portraits of a Life," at The Ann and Jerry Moss Theater at New Roads School, 3131 Olympic Blvd., Santa Monica, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Williams will recall his remarkable life of nearly eight decades, including his roles in "Brian's Song" and as Lando Calrissian in the "Star Wars" universe. General admission ticket $25, ticket plus a signed copy of the memoir $50. To purchase tickets, visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/an-evening-with-billy-dee-williams-tickets-823698162377.

ALL-STAR JAM BENEFIT
Doors open at 8 PM. Show starts at 9:30PM. Online ticket sales end at 7 PM, tics available at the door after 8 PM. 2 drink minimum. Hosted by CC Thomas (Diana Ross' musical director) you never know who is going to show up!!!!!!!A minimum $5.00 contribution that goes directly to the Raffia Music School for children. Come for the incredible talent, or sign up and jam with the finest in the world! Harvelle's Santa Monica
1432 4th St,$5, https://santamonica.harvelles.com/shows/247729

TUESDAY | FEBRUARY 27

OLIVE OIL TASTINGS
Learn how to taste extra-virgin olive oil for flavor and take note of its key characteristics: fruitiness, bitterness, and pungency. Each month, new olive oils will be introduced from California and the Mediterranean. Donald Bruce Kaufman - Brentwood Branch Library, 11820 San Vicente Boulevard, Los Angeles. 6:30 p.m.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
The City Council is made up of seven members elected at-large for staggered four-year terms. Every two years, after each election, the City Council selects one of its members to serve as Mayor and another to serve as Mayor Pro Tempore. City Hall, 1685 Main Street, 5:30 p.m.

VENICE BRANCH LIBRARY BOOK CLUB ONLINE
Join organizers on the last Tuesday of the month for a lively discussion of fiction and non-fiction, which will alternate each month. Copies of each month's selection will be available behind the Circulation Desk. New members are always welcome. February 27: Trust, by Hernan Diaz. Please email venice@lapl.org for the Zoom link.

SOCIAL SERVICE ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY PROVIDENCE ST. JOHN'S COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAM
Virginia Avenue Park in Partnership with Providence St. John's Community Health Program to resume Social Service Assistance. Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave, 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Submit your event online at smdp.com/events



URSULA'S COSTUMES

FROM PAGE 1

City.

She explained that because business was so slow, she's been forced to let staff go and as such, the "workroom" — a key component of her business — has been out of operation for some time. And the workroom is where the real magic happens.

Most of the front half of the store is taken up by more commonplace costumes and outfits, from ghouls and goblins to kings and cavemen to princes and princesses all the way to outfits from Star Wars, the Squid Game and SpongeBob SquarePants. But, if you're lucky enough to be shown the back half of the store, a whole new, frankly extraordinary experience awaits.

In this veritable Aladdin's Cave, the walls are completely covered with framed photographs of television and movie stars, every one with a handwritten personal message that begins with "Hi Ursula..." Sean Connery is up there, as Ursula worked with him on one of his last movies; Bruce Willis is there; Richard Dean Anderson; the entire cast of Cagney & Lacey, as Ursula worked on that epic TV show for almost its entire run; Steve Martin and Victoria Tennant, who were married for eight years and according to Ursula, met for the very first time in her store, plus quite literally, hundreds more.

And then, once a few stairs have been successfully negotiated, you enter the workroom. This is where all the tailoring is done — or used to be — and where unique items were crafted from scratch. Hanging up are row after row of elaborate outfits that look like they belong in the movie Amadeus. Then there's a costume that looks like a giant order of McDonald's fries and shelves stuffed with sports team mascot-style giant animal heads, from bears to chickens to tigers and a curious number of Donnie Darko-meets-Alison in Wonderland-esque rabbit costumes. Clearly a popular item.

Ursula says that at the very least she would need a sizable amount of money to pay off her loan that she took out during the pandemic and that's extremely unlikely. Apparently, her son and daughter also aren't interested in running the store. Moreover, she says that online shopping has virtually destroyed her business. "You can come in here and try on whatever you need, then people leave the shop and go and buy it on Amazon," she said.

Ursula was reluctant to give out too many details, but she says that movie stars including the likes of Jamie Lee Curtis, Harrison Ford and Arnold Schwarzenegger pop into the store from time to time to buy a fanciful outfit for an event or Halloween or even just a birthday party.

She says that she has an appointment with a real estate agent on Tuesday, 27 February and after that meeting she'll know the date that her iconic outlet will close. Frankly, it should be registered as a historic landmark.

scott.snowden@smdp.com

REGISTRY

FROM PAGE 3

levels, if we're really gonna understand the demographics of our city, of our renters, of our employees, our disabled communities, our communities of color, our children in our public schools ... all of this is vital data collection that the city has a right to collect, and the public has a right to understand," Foster said.

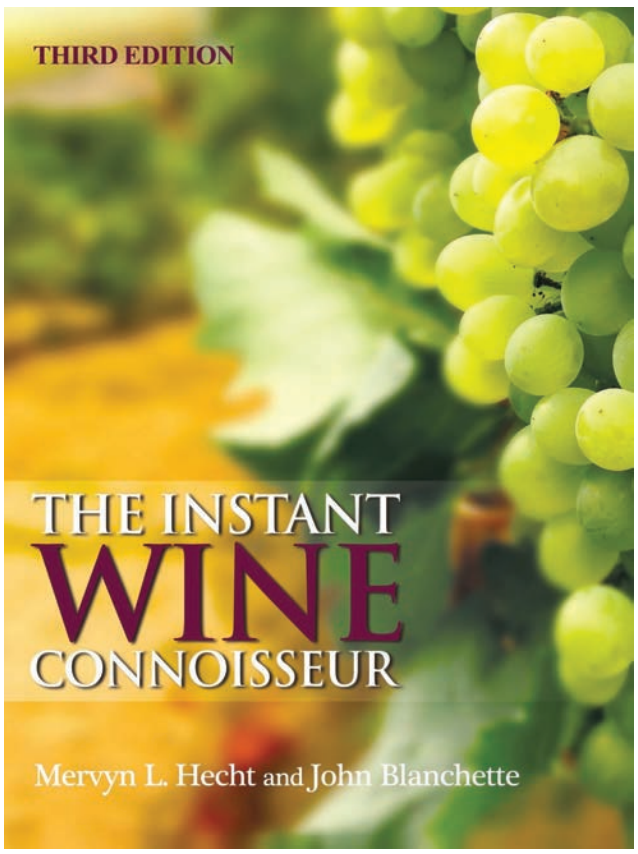
Both Foster and fellow Commissioner Lonnie Guinn both pointed to the importance of compiling a database sooner than later due to the Justice for Renters Act being on the California ballot in November. The potential repeal of the Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act would allow for greater local control in rent matters, with Guinn saying the registry would be "invaluable" if the repeal were to take place.

Guinn also questioned a property owner's incentive for reporting as part of the registry, saying he can see where that's "problematic," and wants to find ways to encourage owners to report a vacancy. Kurpies noted in his presentation that fines were one form of enforcing compliance with the registry.

The discussion on the registry was a discussion item at the Feb. 8 meeting, and the project will return to City Council before an update is given to the board.

thomas@smdp.com

★★★★★ A light-hearted fun read.
★★★★★ Well written, particularly useful, instantly accessible.
★★★★★ ...Hecht has a joyful eye and fabulous taste



Daily Press Food &Wine Columnist Merv Hecht takes you on an delightful tour of the world of wine. A fun way to increase your appreciation and knowledge of wine.

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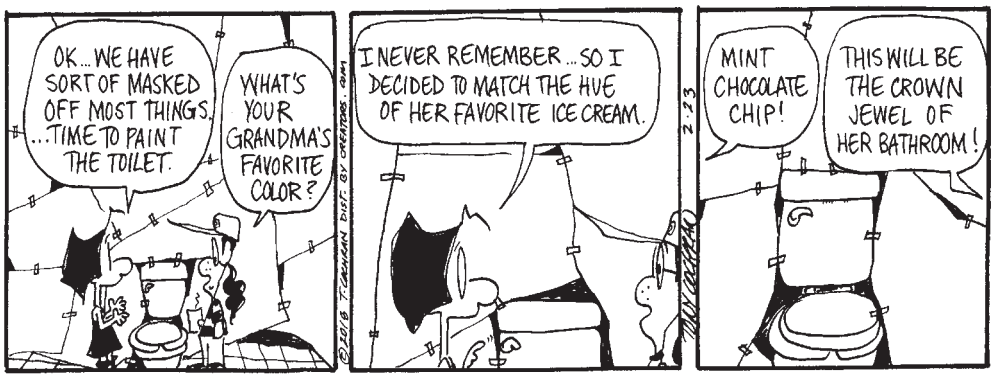
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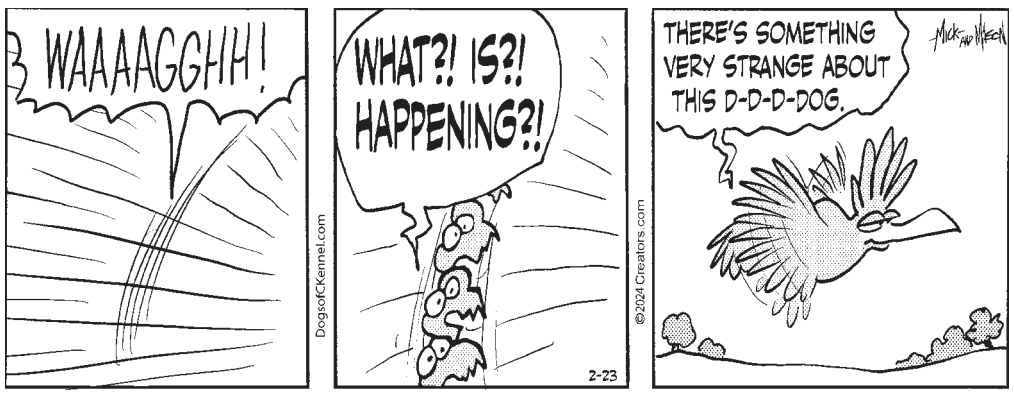
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



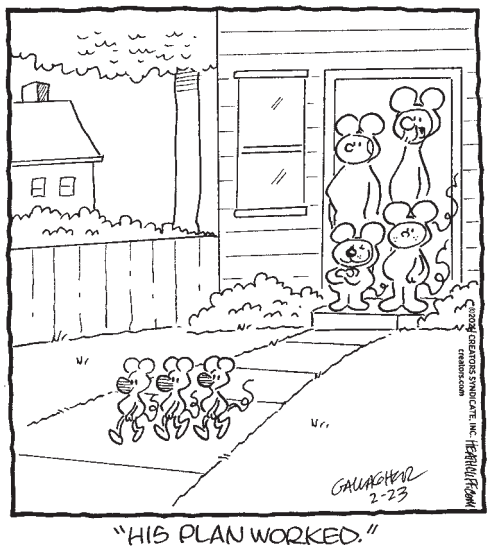
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"HIS PLAN WORKED."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 25 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 6129

Urban living

G	C	M	K	A	O	B	U	N	G	A	L	O	W	G
N	N	O	V	R	I	C	H	E	I	H	N	I	O	R
I	F	V	E	E	O	N	T	R	S	T	Z	M	O	O
N	O	I	E	P	C	W	P	U	N	T	S	O	L	A
I	O	E	M	O	N	O	R	A	I	L	P	Y	O	D
D	T	T	B	Y	R	A	R	B	I	L	L	E	N	S
O	P	H	A	T	F	G	A	S	S	E	N	A	L	L
C	A	E	S	A	A	N	K	S	N	A	C	K	T	U
K	T	A	S	V	K	R	R	O	N	J	O	B	S	M
A	H	T	Y	L	A	L	L	O	E	F	U	N	N	Y
C	A	E	X	P	R	E	S	S	W	A	Y	T	F	C
H	C	R	U	H	C	A	F	E	S	T	O	L	I	A
H	O	S	P	I	T	A	L	D	E	L	A	Y	S	B
O	S	E	S	U	B	A	R	N	L	T	S	N	N	I
R	U	O	B	R	A	H	N	S	S	I	R	E	N	N

Airport	Dock	Lanes	Rich
Bank	Embassy	Library	Roads
Barn	Expressway	Lonely	Rush
Bungalow	Fast	Lost	Siren
Buses	Flats	Monorail	Slum
Cabin	Footpath	Movie theater	Smog
Cafe	Funny		Snack
Cars	Harbour	News	Tolls
Church	Hospital	Opera	Vagrant
Delays	Inns	Parks	Work
Dining	Jobs	Poor	Zoos

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 23)

Step into a year of living on-purpose. You quite simply tell yourself what to do, and you do it without hesitation. More highlights: Professional success dances through every workday. Thrilling public events around sports and music are featured, as well as celebrations that are as fun to plan as they are to participate in. Taurus and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 13, 6, 43, 2 and 19.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You've watched a person get it wrong multiple times, but you keep hoping for a breakthrough. As for your own scene, continue approaching the problem from different angles. There's no shame in making mistakes, especially new ones.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You'll refrain from asking questions you don't want to know the answer to, and you'll hold back when you actually do want to know the answer, too. You'll learn more when you let people tell you when they are ready.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The older people want to be younger, the younger people want to be older, and the wise of any age won't even give it a second thought, because they are too busy seizing the day with all the faculties they have.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your words have more power than you might expect. Since you'll be taken quite seriously, speak carefully and decide what's worth expressing. This may require soul searching and/or taking stock in your beliefs.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). "Safety first" works as a motto of the physical realm, though you're more daring when it comes to your heart. Small risks will thrill you, sending a charge of vitality. It's uncomfortable to put your emotions on the line, but the rewards are well worth it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Life's delights will come to you like a treat — sweetness protected within a thin, form-fitting emotional foil like the wrapper of a chocolate heart. You'll get to decide what to swallow, share or save.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll be visited by a persistent and fascinating idea. Be warned: if you take this one on, it will be with you for a long time. It behooves you to do deep research, gather a wide array of opinions and thoroughly investigate the hypotheticals.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It's nice to hear thunderous applause at the conclusion of your work, though unless you're an opera singer or a professional athlete, most of your work gets turned in without the fanfare. The better you get at supplying your own enthusiasm, the more successful you'll be.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Where love is unconditional, there's no need for things like judgment or forgiveness. The heart remains open to the many facets, incarnations and outcomes a person can embody.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're a genius at finding the right tone to unlock doors and matching your solutions to the problem at hand. You'll use the sort of intelligence that is most relevant and helpful. You'll stay on the lighter side of things.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You don't have to have a lofty goal to change the world. It's the simple things that make a difference — to grow something or someone, to be a peacemaker, to entertain or make someone smile — all ways to a better world.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Though you fully recognize that there are no guarantees, you'll take steps to maximize your chances of positive outcomes. You'll rise to meet a challenge, taking the healthy risks with a reasonable probability of success.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD



Sudoku

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column, and 3x3 block. Use logic and process of elimination to solve the puzzle.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

3	4	5	1	9	2	7	8	6
7	6	9	8	3	5	4	1	2
1	2	8	6	7	4	3	9	5
6	7	2	9	5	8	1	4	3
5	9	4	3	2	1	8	6	7
8	3	1	7	4	6	2	5	9
9	8	6	2	1	3	5	7	4
2	5	7	4	8	9	6	3	1
4	1	3	5	6	7	9	2	8

	9				8	7		6
	8			4			1	
	3		5		7			4
		6		5		9		3
	5						6	
9		2		7		4		
7			6		9		5	
	6			1			7	
1		3	7				4	

Newsday Crossword

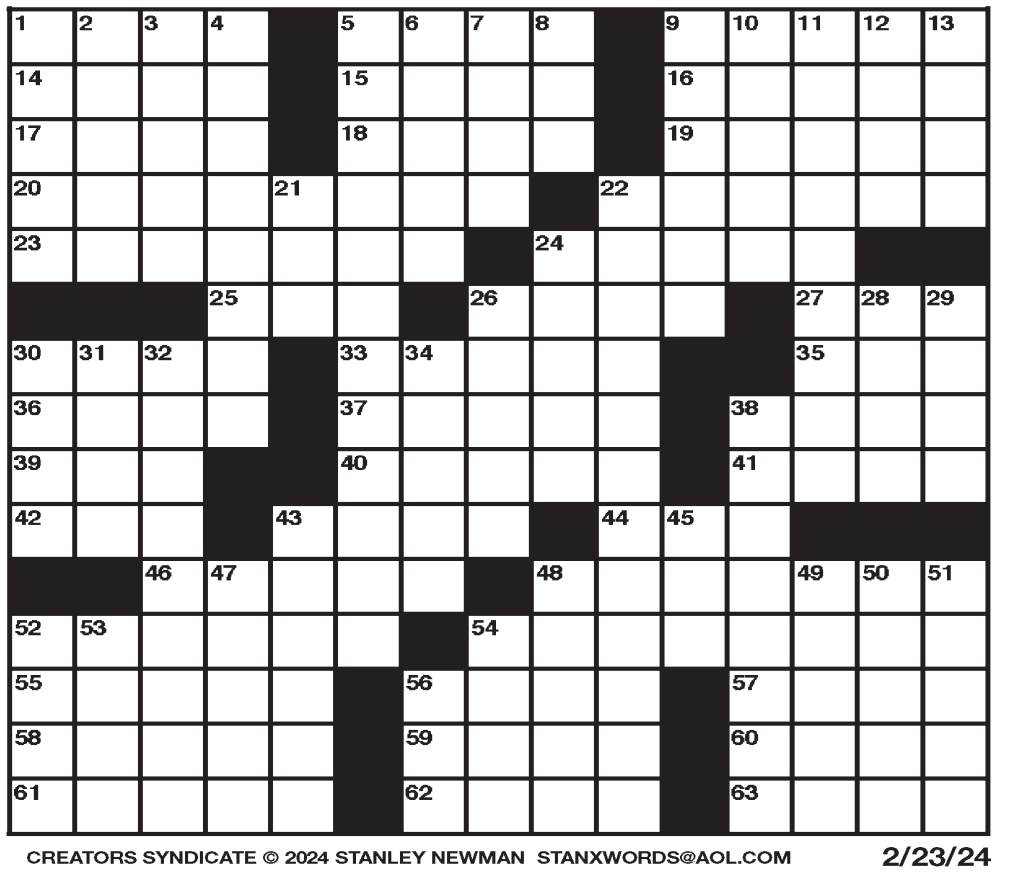
LOWER EDUCATION by Mark McClain
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Bogus quarter
5 Produce
9 Llama kin
14 Thin bread
15 Driver-summoning app
16 Gaming pioneer
17 46 Across designation: Abbr.
18 Soapy stuff
19 Scandinavian land, to natives
20 Returns to the House
22 Everyday
23 Chooses courses
24 Wood for surfboards
25 Weapon in Laurel & Hardy's *Battle of the Century*
26 Southwest topography
27 Small portion
30 Poetic lowland
33 Polynesian language
35 Luau item
36 Endnote abbr.
37 Voice of Dory
38 Smartphone case
39 KC cuisine
40 Very, in music
41 Have an inclination
42 *Fontaine* contents
43 Rail-thin
44 Hatchery product
46 Cook County hub
48 It can be picked up with rabbit ears
52 Satirical skit
54 Adds something
55 Hockey infraction
56 Region with a Wine Train
57 Go way up
58 Roast runner
59 Slanderous, by definition
60 "Lower" theme of the answers to the starred clues: Abbr.
61 Wetland grasses
62 Knock for a loop
63 Reporter there for D-Day

DOWN

1 Pointy topper
2 Fine paper material
3 Unmitigated
4 Ran at Churchill Downs
5 *Motor skill retention
6 Touches against
7 Taylor Swift footwear
8 49 follower
9 Frying medium
10 Very small portions
11 *Comics Great Dane
12 "And so, . . ."
13 Creditor's claim
21 Manning of football
22 *First Bond book
24 Soft cap
26 Diminutive for Mary
28 Analogous
29 Give in a little
30 Intuitive feeling
31 Singers from Stockholm
32 *Chewy candy in Canterbury
34 Ungrouped
38 Gets hard to see through
43 Employees' displays
45 ROTC alternative
47 Made more acute
48 Two-mile-high capital
49 Nonsensical
50 Bring up the rear
51 Get-up-and-go
52 Seaside structure
53 Ultimate attainment
54 Name on Sweet Breakfast boxes
56 Subtle bid



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MURAL

FROM PAGE 2

advocate for and organize to highlight native and indigenous artists and systems-impacted youth."

Director of Meztli Projects Joel Garcia, explained that a comprehensive community engagement program had been undertaken to understand people's thoughts and feelings regarding this issue, including surveys, public events, interviews and listening sessions throughout 2022 in the City of Santa Monica.

"The biggest takeaway is why are we not recommending to either keep or remove the mural? For us, through these conversations, the biggest takeaway that we didn't want to obscure or look over was the relationship building part. I think what the recommendation that this report offers is an opportunity for none of us to be spectators in the healing and listening that needs to happen," Garcia said.

The presentation included a conceptual proposal that added artwork to the surrounding walls of the City Hall lobby, the second floor far wall and even the ceiling. Councilmember Gleam Davis asked for a little clarification.

"How do you anticipate looking for someone who's got the right vision, for lack of a better term? To, as you'd use the word, have the 'conversation' with those murals? Are we going to have a competition, where people will submit ideas, or is it a [matter of] appointing a committee that will sift through, how do you anticipate selecting the art?" Davis asked delicately dancing around the issue of who decides what is art.

To which Klatzker responded, "We're surrounded by an incredibly gifted and talented artistic community here in Santa Monica and in the region … The RFP that's released needs to define what are the qualities we're looking at, for what needs to be included and that will distill who is then coming forward."

"But we're also, as per the recommendations [going] to make sure that the artists who are doing it are also representative of these populations that are under seen and … that's the beautiful challenge of this is that we continue this deep conversation, so that we can get to what is it that are the criteria for these very talented artists to come forward," Klatzker added, also delicately dancing around the issue of who decides what is art.

De la Torre, one of the most prominent critics of the murals, made reference to a number of pieces of artwork that weren't mentioned in the report, including one at Santa Monica High, which depicts "similar Native people … bowing down to look like Vikings" along with an installation on the Promenade from a number of years ago that predates the dinosaur fountains.

"The [City Hall mural] image of superiority, inferiority really spoke to us … I remember my son who might have been eight years old, and I looked at the mural, and I asked him, 'Do you see that mural? Do you see any grouping superior and other grouping inferior?' And he said, 'Yes.' And I said, Okay, so what do you see,' he says. 'Well, those people are superior, and those people are inferior.' And then I asked him who you look most like, and he said, 'Like the Indians.' And this is just a little boy, who's already interpreting the information," de la Torre said.

> The biggest takeaway is why are we not recommending to either keep or remove the mural? For us, through these conversations, the biggest takeaway that we didn't want to obscure or look over was the relationship building part. I think what the recommendation that this report offers is an opportunity for none of us to be spectators in the healing and listening that needs to happen
>
> - Joel Garcia, Director of Meztli Projects

The nine recommendations made are: 1. Commission new artwork(s) in City Hall lobby 2. Commission new interpretive panels 3. Ensure that Santa Monica's public art and commemorative landscape centers equity and belonging 4. Create additional educational materials about the mural 5. Expand DEI+ trainings for City staff 6. Adopt a citywide land/territory acknowledgment initiative 7. Improve representation on Santa Monica committees 8. Facilitate land back in Santa Monica and 9. Facilitate Kuruvungna Springs relationships.

A motion was made by de la Torre and seconded by Vice Mayor Lana Negrete and it passed unanimously 7-0 with a friendly amendment that is to add a 10th recommendation "for City staff to consider employing a restorative justice approach to assess the repairing the harm of past actions of the city's Santa Monica, impacting bipoc communities. Bipoc is a black indigenous people of color communities."

scott.snowden@smdp.com

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Anthony "Apple" Medina

June 13, 1963 - February 12, 2024

Anthony Medina, aged 60, passed away peacefully on February 12th, 2024 surrounded by family and loved ones in Santa Monica. Born on June 13th, 1963 in Merida Mexico, Anthony is survived by his mother Maria, siblings Alfredo, Monica, and Isabel, his daughter Jennifer, and his grandchildren Cody and Rocco.



He came to the United States at five with his family and was a lifelong resident of Santa Monica. Despite not being born here, he was a native son of Santa Monica who enjoyed surfing at the Santa Monica beach, working out at the Gold's Gym in Venice, and driving his cars down Lincoln Boulevard. He is remembered for his adventurous spirit and relentless energy, with which he became fast friends with most of the neighborhood.

His energy was infectious and often drew people to him even when he stubbornly argued that nobody would ever beat his John Adams pull-up school record. Over 25 years ago, Anthony suffered from a form of meningitis that affected his brain and spine. For more than 15 years he was wheelchair-bound and suffered joint and muscle spasms. In his predicament, many would have given up and lost the will to fight. But that was never Anthony, Anthony would never stop fighting.

Through his almost religious commitment to eating well and exercising the best he could, he sustained himself and physically stayed strong. He invigorated his mind and spirit through his love and affection towards those he cared about. Even while confined to a wheelchair, Anthony could be seen around the neighborhood pushing himself to visit the beach or to go up the steep Marine Hill.

Even in sickness, he loved Santa Monica and everyone whose life he touched loved him back. Even as he departs the Earth, his family is comforted that he was able to return home to the westside and that he will spend eternity in the beach town in the sky.

City of Santa Monica

Community Solutions Summit for Equity Plan

Learn about the top equity priorities the community wants the City of Santa Monica to address in the citywide equity plan and how to apply for a grant to help develop solutions



March 2, 2024

11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

1450 Second St. | Virtual option available



Featuring:

- Community feedback results
- Info on City programs that address community priorities
- Info session on $500 community solutions grants
- Educational session on turning ideas into solutions

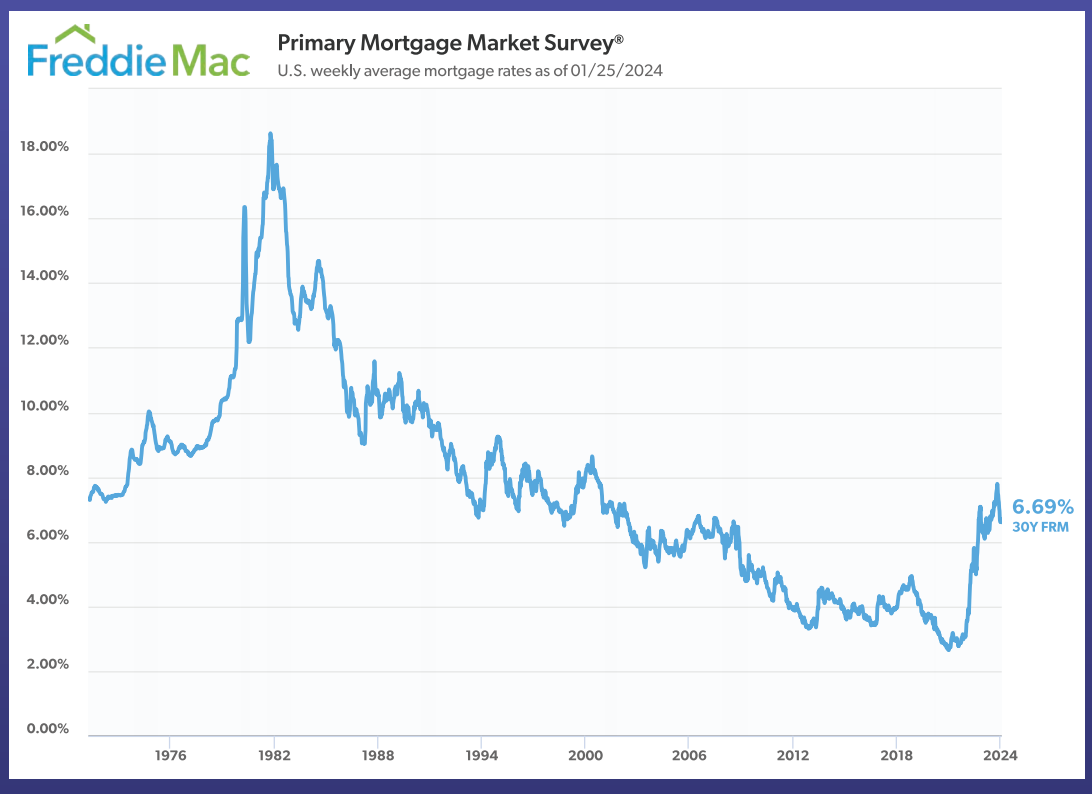
RSVP required. Email socialjustice@santamonica.gov or call (310) 963-3547 to reserve your spot.

WHEN TO BUY?

WHY it is important to include homeownership in your future plans, part 2 of 4

Now is an advantageous time to buy a home, despite seemingly high interest rates compared to a few years ago. Rates remain below the 50-year average of 7%, with the potential for refinancing. Home prices are expected to continue rising, driven by factors such as the entry of 72 million millennials into the housing market as first-time buyers. This surge, combined with already low inventory, is likely to exert upward pressure on home prices. Historically, real estate has appreciated over time, making it a valuable long-term investment, further bolstering the case for buying now.

If you are on the fence about when to purchase a home, you can give me a call. I am happy to be of service and to answer any questions you have.



INFOGRAPHIC PRODIVED BY JORDAN LEVINE, CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS



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