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Moving to the left?

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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The Promenade's infamous banner draws accusations of defamation and lies from both sides



Matthew Hall

SIGN: The sign on the Promenade has changed but the implications remain the same. Council reiterated its opposition to the sign at last week's meeting but the sign owner has threatened legal action over the criticism.

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

The City Council has again denounced a sign on the Third Street Promenade that criticizes local leaders over drug use and crime in the city.

Property owner John Alle has installed a series of banners on his storefront over the past two years. The banners have consistently blamed drug use for problems in the city but have increasingly targeted specific individuals including the City Manager and Councilmembers over a needle distribution program operated by the County's health department.

Alle has claimed the program has been approved by the City Manager and that various Councilmembers also support it. However, in recent weeks, the City's opposition to the banners increased with officials saying his accusations are outright lies as the program is outside city control and councilmembers have specifically opposed it.

The sign recently changed but

SEE **SIGN** PAGE 15

Two officers recognized for finding kidnapped child



Courtesy photo

POLICE: The Santa Monica City Council issued a commendation to a pair of police officers, Christopher Dilworth (pictured) and Officer Robert Pike who were responsible for finding a child abducted from a local restaurant earlier this month. Councilwoman Christine Parra read the proclamation saying that on July 12, Santa Monica Police dispatchers received an urgent call from a distressed grandmother reporting her three-year-old granddaughter missing from Panda Express on Lincoln Boulevard. Witnesses indicated an unknown woman had taken the child. Officers Christopher Dilworth and Robert Pike of the Santa Monica Police Department's Downtown Services Unit quickly responded, along with other units, to search for the child. The officers checked a nearby hotel, where they found the child unharmed in a room and detained the suspect. The child was safely reunited with her grandmother. The swift response and investigative efforts of Officers Dilworth and Pike resolved the situation within 36 minutes.

Santa Monica Conservancy launches new Ocean Park neighborhood initiative

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

The Santa Monica Conservancy has announced a new initiative to engage the community in a program of events, neighborhood walks, garden tours, open houses events and community meetings. The aim is that these programs will spotlight local culture and history for neighbors and visitors to Ocean Park and beyond.

This summer the Conservancy launched its first new signature tour in seven years. Available on

SEE **CONSERVANCY** PAGE 12



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Newsom orders California state agencies to start clearing homeless encampments

TRÂN NGUYỄN
Associated Press

California Gov. Gavin Newsom ordered state agencies Thursday to start removing homeless encampments on state land in his boldest action yet following a Supreme Court ruling allowing cities to enforce bans on sleeping outside in public spaces.

This executive order directs state agencies "to move urgently to address dangerous encampments while supporting and assisting the individuals living in them." It also provides guidance for cities and counties to do the same, which applies pressure on them, though they are not legally bound to the order.

California is home to roughly one-third of the nation's population of homeless people, a problem that has dogged Newsom since he took office. There are thousands of tents and makeshift shelters across the state that line freeways, and fill parking lots and public parks.

Under Newsom's direction, state agencies — including state parks and the department of transportation — would be required to prioritize clearing encampments that pose safety risks, such as those along waterways. Officials should give "reasonable" advance notice to homeless people, offer to connect them to local services and help store their belongings for at least 60 days. Local cities and counties are urged to adopt similar protocols.

Last month the U.S. Supreme Court overturned a lower court ruling that said governments could not force people to leave encampments if there weren't any shelter beds available. The case was the most significant on the problem to come before the high court in decades. Cities across the country have been wrestling with the politically complicated task of how to deal with a rising number of people without a permanent place to live and public frustration over related health and safety issues.

Newsom's administration wrote in support of cities' arguments that previous rulings, including one that barred San Francisco from clearing encampments, have prevented the state from solving a critical problem.

"There are simply no more excuses. It's time for everyone to do their part," Newsom said in a statement Thursday.

Newsom's decision garnered praise from some local elected officials and business groups, who said they were left with no options to address homeless encampments before the Supreme Court's ruling. San Francisco Mayor London Breed recently said the city will start an "aggressive" campaign to clear encampments across the city in August. Her office noted that the governor's order does not affect the city's operations.

"I applaud Governor Newsom's emphasis on urgency," Kathryn Barger, a member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors said in a statement. "He rightfully points out that local government remains at the helm of

> "Homelessness is one of the biggest challenges we face today and it is imperative we take swift, decisive and effective action to address it"
> - Roger Niello, Republican Senator

homeless encampment removals. Cities have an obligation to develop housing and shelter solutions in tandem with support services provided by County government."

Even Republican lawmakers, who have repeatedly blasted Newsom over his handling of the crisis, are rallying behind the order Thursday.

"Homelessness is one of the biggest challenges we face today and it is imperative we take swift, decisive and effective action to address it," Republican Senator Roger Niello said in a statement. "This executive order is a good step but it will require significant follow-through to ensure its effectiveness."

Homeless people and advocates say the sweeps are cruel and a waste of taxpayer money. They say the answer is more housing, not crackdowns.

"You get your highway off-ramp clean for a moment only," Democratic Assemblymember Alex Lee said on social media. "Without meaningful services and housing, all sweeps do is making a prominent inequality less visible."

While Newsom cannot order local authorities to act, his administration can apply pressure by withholding money for counties and cities. In 2022, he threatened to withhold $1 billion in homelessness spending from local governments over the lack of progress.

SEE **HOMELESS** PAGE 12

FINDING A NEW DENTIST IS TOUGH!

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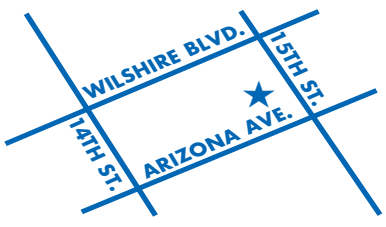
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Video game performers will go on strike over artificial intelligence concerns

SARAH PARVINI
AP Technology Writer

Hollywood's video game performers voted to go on strike Thursday, throwing part of the entertainment industry into another work stoppage after talks for a new contract with major game studios broke down over artificial intelligence protections.

The strike — the second for video game voice actors and motion capture performers under the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists — will begin at 12:01 a.m. Friday. The move comes after nearly two years of negotiations with gaming giants, including divisions of Activision, Warner Bros. and Walt Disney Co., over a new interactive media agreement.

> Enough is enough. When these companies get serious about offering an agreement our members can live — and work — with, we will be here, ready to negotiate
>
> - Fran Drescher, the union's president

SAG-AFTRA negotiators say gains have been made over wages and job safety in the video game contract, but that the studios will not make a deal over the regulation of generative AI. Without guardrails, game companies could train AI to replicate an actor's voice, or create a digital replica of their likeness without consent or fair compensation, the union said.

Fran Drescher, the union's president, said in a prepared statement that members would not approve a contract that would allow companies to "abuse AI."

"Enough is enough. When these companies get serious about offering an agreement our members can live — and work — with, we will be here, ready to negotiate," Drescher said.

A spokesperson for the video game producers, Audrey Cooling, said the companies and the union had reached deals on almost everything, including wages and safety provisions, She also said the studios offered AI protections that would require "consent and fair compensation to all performers."

"We are disappointed the union has chosen to walk away when we are so close to a deal, and we remain prepared to resume negotiations," Cooling said.

The global video game industry generates well over $100 billion dollars in profit annually, according to game market forecaster Newzoo. The people who design and bring those games to life are the driving force behind that success, SAG-AFTRA said.

"Eighteen months of negotiations have shown us that our employers are not interested in fair, reasonable AI protections, but rather flagrant exploitation," said Interactive Media Agreement Negotiating Committee Chair Sarah Elmaleh.

Last month, union negotiators told The Associated Press that the game studios refused to "provide an equal level of protection from the dangers of AI for all our members" — specifically, movement performers.

Members voted overwhelmingly last year to give leadership the authority to strike. Concerns about how movie studios will use AI helped fuel last year's film and television strikes by the union, which lasted four months.

The last interactive contract, which expired November 2022, did not provide protections around AI but secured a bonus compensation structure for voice actors and performance capture artists after an 11-month strike that began October 2016. That work stoppage marked the first major labor action from SAG-AFTRA following the merger of Hollywood's two largest actors unions in 2012.

The video game agreement covers more than 2,500 "off-camera (voiceover) performers, on-camera (motion capture, stunt) performers, stunt coordinators, singers, dancers, puppeteers, and background performers," according to the union.

Amid the tense interactive negotiations, SAG-AFTRA created a separate contract in February that covered indie and lower-budget video game projects. The tiered-budget independent interactive media agreement contains some of the protections on AI that video game industry titans have rejected.

GET IT DAILY...



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **66.2**

FRIDAY
FAIR
SURF: 1-2ft
Knee to thigh

Nothing large but could be a few playful little waves for the small wave gear if wind can cooperate for the morning. Refresh of SSW/S swell moves in through the day and NW windswell may perk back up.

SATURDAY
FAIR
SURF: 1-2ft
Knee to thigh

SSW/S swell continues and we could see a bit more NW windswell mixing in along with some mid-period SSE swell. That's a recipe for some fun corners and the AM tide looks nice. We'll be on conditions watch w/ a chance at southerly eddy flow.

Weather

Friday: Patchy drizzle and fog before 11am. Cloudy through mid morning, then gradual clearing, with a high near 75.
Friday Night: Patchy drizzle and fog after 11pm. Increasing clouds, with a low around 62. West southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.
Saturday: Patchy drizzle and fog before 11am. Mostly sunny, with a high near 70. East southeast wind 5 to 10 mph.
Saturday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 59.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2024/07/26	Fri	01:07 AM	4.75	H
2024/07/26	Fri	07:36 AM	0.55	L
2024/07/26	Fri	2:20 PM	5.19	H
2024/07/26	Fri	8:41 PM	1.67	L
2024/07/27	Sat	02:20 AM	3.85	H
2024/07/27	Sat	08:15 AM	1.27	L
2024/07/27	Sat	3:12 PM	5.41	H
2024/07/27	Sat	10:22 PM	1.32	L
2024/07/28	Sun	04:06 AM	3.19	H
2024/07/28	Sun	09:04 AM	1.96	L
2024/07/28	Sun	4:11 PM	5.62	H
2024/07/28	Sun	11:54 PM	0.74	L
2024/07/29	Mon	06:14 AM	3.05	H
2024/07/29	Mon	10:13 AM	2.50	L
2024/07/29	Mon	5:12 PM	5.82	H
2024/07/30	Tue	01:05 AM	0.14	L
2024/07/30	Tue	07:56 AM	3.32	H
2024/07/30	Tue	11:33 AM	2.78	L

Daily Lottery

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at http://www.calottery.com

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 7/24
16 42 59 63 68
Power#: 13
Jackpot: 131 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 7/23
3 9 14 26 51
Mega#: 21
Jackpot: 306 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 7/24
8 11 25 28 47
Mega#: 11
Jackpot: 8 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 7/24
3 4 6 26 36

Daily 3
Draw Date: 7/24
EVENING: 1 6 1
Draw Date: 7/24
MIDDAY: 3 7 7

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 7/24
1st: 07 - Eureka
2nd: 08 - Gorgeous George
3rd: 09 - Winning Spirit
Race Time: 1:44.08

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Santa Monica Daily Press

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Eye-popping construction costs intensify California's chronic housing shortage

DAN WALTERS

It's not hyperbole to declare that California's most serious economic, social and political issue is its chronic shortage of housing, particularly for families in the lower income brackets.

As the yawning gap between demand and supply, especially in urban areas, pushes costs upward, it drags down the economy by discouraging investment in job-creating businesses; it drives employers and their workers to other states where they can afford housing; it fuels the nation's highest level of functional poverty and it's the major factor in California's worst-in-the-nation homelessness.

The state has pushed local governments to reduce impediments to housing construction, setting a goal of 2.5 million new units over the current eight-year planning cycle, or an average of more than 300,000 units a year, "and no less than one million of those homes must meet the needs of lower-income households."

At best, California's private and public housing developers are meeting a third of that goal, and the recent trend is downward. The state budget notes that in 2023 residential permits declined by 2.9% from 2022 to about 110,000 permitted units, and it projects that while single-family housing construction will probably pick up this year, multifamily units are expected to contract 5.5%, the largest annual decline since 2020.

The budget cites high interest rates, imposed by the Federal Reserve to combat inflation, as a major factor in the state's stagnant housing picture. But inflation itself — the rising costs of building materials and construction labor — also is a problem, as is the tangle of red tape that projects must endure.

A project now underway in downtown Sacramento, just a couple blocks from the state Capitol, illustrates how high development costs affect supply. The decrepit Sequoia Hotel, originally built in 1906, is being transformed into 88 tiny units of housing — 150 square feet each — for homeless people, at a total cost of $50.1 million, with most of the money coming from the state. That's nearly $600,000 per unit, more than enough to buy a detached single-family home in one of Sacramento's middle-class neighborhoods, and close to $4,000 a square foot.

Sacramento is by no means an isolated example of the eye-popping costs of building housing for low-income Californians.

A similar project in downtown San Francisco, converting a fire-damaged building into 35 low-rent apartments, is costing a million dollars a unit, the San Francisco Chronicle revealed this week.

"Just five years ago, the cost to build affordable housing in San Francisco was only about $740,000 a unit, according to the Bay Area Council Economic Institute. But these days units are clocking in at $1 million or even higher, prompting the question of what can be done to bring down costs," the Chronicle reported.

What indeed?

Governmental projects, such as those in Sacramento and San Francisco, tend to have the highest costs because they must include all sorts of mandates, such as union-scale labor, and they depend on a pastiche of financing sources.

Private projects that needn't follow those mandates can be done much less expensively, particularly if they consist of modules that have been assembled in factories and then joined together on the site. However, construction unions bitterly oppose such innovations and flex their political muscles to minimize their use.

A new $50 million housing fund created by Apple and private philanthropists will only finance projects that meet strict cost limits — less than $550,000 for studios and less than $700,000 for larger units. That's still a lot of money, but it's a step in the right direction.

California will never solve its housing crisis if it doesn't get more — much more — bang for its bucks.

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

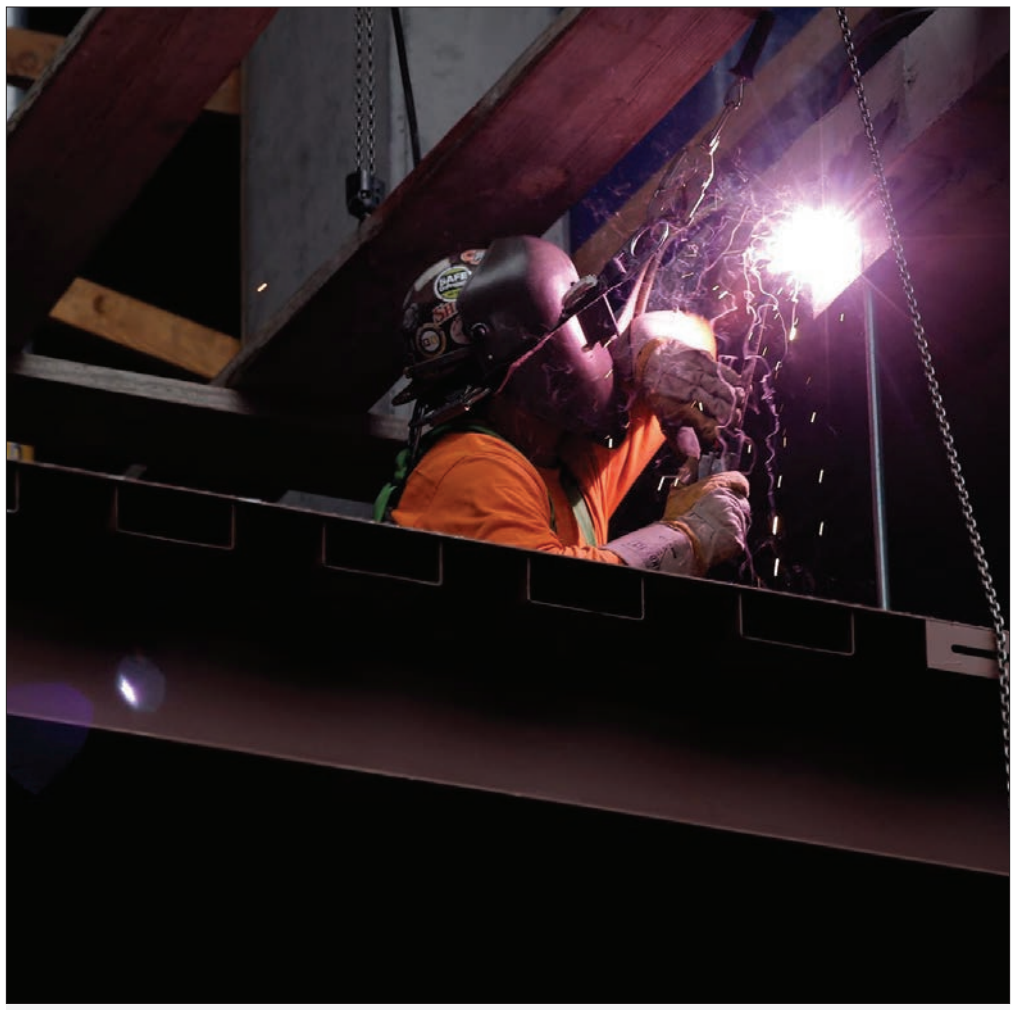


Photo by Michael Macor, San Francisco Chronicle via AP Photo

CONSTRUCTION: A welder works on the construction site of a housing project in the Mission district of San Francisco.

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
ORDINANCE NUMBER 2784 (CCS)
(CITY COUNCIL SERIES)

AN EMERGENCY INTERIM ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA EXTENDING INTERIM ZONING REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY EMERGENCY ZONING ORDINANCE 2781 (CCS) AMENDING SANTA MONICA MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 9.31.230 TO REMOVE THE MINOR USE PERMIT, LOCATION, AND FACILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR MASSAGE ESTABLISHMENTS FROM THE CITY'S PERSONAL SERVICE USE STANDARDS FOR SPECIFIC USES AND ACTIVITIES

The following is a summary of Ordinance Number 2784 (CCS) prepared by the Office of the City Attorney:

On June 11, 2024, City Council adopted Emergency Interim Zoning Ordinance number 2781 (CCS) ("IZO 2781"), which adopted interim zoning regulations to remove the Minor Use Permit, location, and facility requirements for massage establishments from the Personal Service use standards for specific uses and activities contained in Santa Monica Municipal Code (SMMC) section 9.31.230. Emergency Zoning Ordinance Number 2784 extends IZO 2781 until December 31, 2025 to allow staff to monitor the efficacy of the interim regulations and make recommendations for permanent changes to remove the Minor Use Permit, location, and facility requirements for massage establishments from the Personal Service use standards.

Emergency Interim Zoning Ordinance number 2784 will take effect immediately after its adoption and expires December 31, 2025.

The full text of the above Ordinance is available upon request from the office of the City Clerk, located at 1685 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica. Phone: (310) 458-8211.

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GUEST COMMENTARY

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Latinos, renters and presidential politics could extend L.A.'s lurch to the political left



Photo by Pablo Unzueta for CalMatters

ELECTION: A voting sign outside of a polling station in Los Angeles on June 7, 2022.

JIM NEWTON

Demography, politics and the unintended consequences of civic reforms have pushed Los Angeles to the left, creating an electorate hostile to Republicans and shaping the prospects of candidates and causes this November and beyond.

That broad, historic trend may get an added boost this election cycle with the emergence of Vice President Kamala Harris as the presumed Democratic candidate for president.

For most of the 1900s, Los Angeles was solidly Republican, in part because its civic elite, including the owners of the Los Angeles Times, built the city as an anti-union counterpart to San Francisco. If San Francisco was a city of docks and labor — and Democrats — Los Angeles was one of suburbs and single-family homes — and Republicans.

That began to shift in the 1960s, but the city still retained enough of that legacy to elect Richard Riordan, a Republican, as its mayor in 1993. The conditions were right: The city had been through a riot in 1992, so Riordan's slogan, "Tough Enough to Turn LA Around," found purchase in a rattled electorate.

Rick Caruso's attempt to replicate that strategy in 2022 fell well short, as the businessman-turned-politician was handily defeated by then-Congresswoman Karen Bass. Some of that was specific to the campaign: Bass was and is a likable personality and an experienced political leader. Caruso had no elected experience and registered as a Democrat just in time for the election, raising questions about opportunism.

Much of it also reflected deep, underlying shifts in the Los Angeles electorate — changes other big cities can expect, as Los Angeles charts future trends in demographics and politics.

The most significant, long-term change in the Los Angeles electorate is the one that the rest of California is beginning to experience and that the rest of the nation can expect in the coming years: Los Angeles has become a predominantly Latino city, and its political behavior increasingly reflects that.

"The single biggest thing," said Bill Carrick, a veteran Democratic strategist and leading observer of LA politics, "is the growth in Latino voters."

Latinos have become a majority of the population and, increasingly, the lion's share of the electorate, and they have tended to vote for Democrats. That trend — with smaller but significant growth in the number of Asian American voters and younger voters — has helped reshape the city's political map, he said. Once reliably moderate, Republican areas of the San Fernando Valley now are solidly Democratic, leaving no significant base of Republican voters left in Los Angeles.

Recent private polling also proves the point. Two surveys conducted in recent weeks — and shared confidentially with me — asked Los Angeles voters to describe themselves politically. Nearly two-thirds called themselves "strong Democrats" or leaning that way, compared to less than 20% who identified as Republican or leaning Republican.

CHANGES PULLED LOS ANGELES VOTERS LEFT

Other forces are at work, too. Ten years ago, one of Los Angeles' innumerable blue-ribbon commissions sized up the city and proposed a series of recommendations to arrest its "decline."

> "It's not a leftward tilt, so much as the new election calendar is more reflective of LA's electorate"
> - Rick Jacobs

The Los Angeles 2020 Commission's recommendations, contained in its Time for Action report, were mostly ignored — deservedly, because most of the proposals were off the mark — but the city did adopt one. It shifted its election cycle from odd-numbered years to even-numbered years in order to coincide with state and federal elections and thus boost voter turnout.

That, too, was ill-advised in some respects. It has resulted in less focused news reporting on city elections, allowing local candidates to run with much less vetting. News organizations are forced to split their political coverage between state and federal races, with local contests receiving less attention than those at the top of the ticket.

But the change has a more discernible effect: It has moved the electorate to the left.

Within the bigger turnout are more voters who might not have otherwise participated. Those so-called marginal voters tend to be busy working people, younger people, more often liberals than conservatives, so the voting pool has become more liberal.

Rick Jacobs, another shrewd analyst of Los Angeles politics, cited the change in the election calendar at the top of his list of reasons why the city's electorate has shifted in recent years.

"It's not a leftward tilt, so much as the new election calendar is more reflective of LA's electorate," he said.

Other changes are having an effect, too. Los Angeles has shifted from being a city of homeowners to one of renters. They tend to be younger, and their interests in communities and services are often different than those of older, more established homeowners.

The media landscape has changed as well. The Los Angeles Times, once a powerful force in shaping local races, has dwindled in circulation and influence. Carrick said its endorsements still matter, but "with fewer people who subscribe and even fewer who read the home edition," its picks more often are helpful in supplementing candidate advertising than they are in reaching voters directly.

And Los Angeles no longer has much of a viable political center. Or, if it does, that center now exists somewhere between moderate Democrats and progressives. Mayor Bass would be a liberal in any big city other than LA; here, she is a moderate.

IMPACT OF NOVEMBER ELECTIONS

As fall elections approach, the electorate — who votes and in what numbers — could determine some of the local races that voters will consider. The November ballot includes a closely watched contest for district attorney, for instance, as well as a proposed sales tax hike for homeless services.

The DA race may or may not play along partisan lines. Incumbent George Gascón will appeal to progressives — he styles himself as a progressive prosecutor — while his challenger, Nathan Hochman, is running as an independent but two years ago ran for California attorney general as a Republican. If the race shapes up in partisan terms, that gives Gascón an obvious edge in a very liberal electorate.

But Gascón has other difficulties, including widespread criticism of his management, reflected in his abysmal approval ratings. "He may be an exception to all this," Carrick said.

More susceptible to the area's leftward shift may be the proposed tax increase for the homeless. That proposal would replace an existing quarter-cent sales tax due to expire in 2017 with a permanent half-cent tax. It has qualified for the November ballot.

The tax hike enjoys broad — but not unanimous — support among city and county leaders and organizations. United Way is backing it, for example; BizFed, a group of employers, has come out against it.

Tax hikes are always a challenge, and supporters of the measure had worried that a dispirited electorate might not turn out for President Joe Biden, especially after his disastrous debate performance fueled doubts about his age and fitness for office.

That mood has shifted dramatically since Biden stepped out of the race and Harris, a popular figure in Los Angeles and among voters of color, assumed leadership of her party and its likely nomination.

That, Jacobs said, could boost progressive voter turnout and have implications up and down the ballot, including for the homeless services measure.

Every election brings nuances. Substance, Carrick noted, has a habit of getting in the way of trends.

But the long-term arc of Los Angeles politics is clear. Once an anchor of conservatism, it now is on the cutting edge of progressive politics. That is driven by issues, but also by the electorate itself.

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF ELECTION AND ARGUMENT AND REBUTTAL DEADLINES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the General Municipal Election will be held in the City of Santa Monica on Tuesday, November 5, 2024, and setting the deadlines for submittal of arguments, and rebuttals in favor and in opposition of the following measure:

MEASURE " ": To enhance public safety, create safe routes to school to protect children, lower the risk of fatal traffic accidents, and maintain other essential city services, shall the measure increasing the City of Santa Monica Parking Facility Tax by 8% for users including visitors and tourists, causing no additional cost in City-owned lots and structures (including downtown and the beach) because of a partial City exemption, generating approximately $6,700,000 annually until ended by voters, be adopted?	YES NO
MEASURE " ": ADVISORY VOTE ONLY: If Measure ___ is enacted, should at least half of the additional revenue raised be used to protect public safety in Santa Monica, including attracting and retaining well-trained police officers and firefighters, improving crime and homelessness prevention services, and increasing police patrols and enhancing emergency medical response in neighborhoods and public areas, including downtown, the pier, and the beach?	YES NO

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that pursuant to Article 4, Chapter 3, Division 9 of the Elections Code of the State of California, the legislative body of the City, or any member or members thereof authorized by the body, or any individual voter or bona fide association of citizens, or any combination of voters and associations, may file a written argument, not to exceed 300 words in length, accompanied by the printed name(s) and signature(s) of the author(s) submitting it, or if submitted on behalf of an organization, the name of the organization, and the printed name and signature of at least one of its principal officers who is the author of the argument, for or against the City measures. No more than five signatures of authors shall be accepted with any argument submitted.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that, based upon the time reasonably necessary to prepare and print the arguments and Voter Information Guide for the election, the City Clerk has fixed Tuesday, August 6, 2024, 5:00 p.m., during normal office hours, as posted, as the date after which no arguments for or against the City measure(s) may be submitted to the Clerk for printing and distribution to the voters as provided in the Article 4. Arguments shall be submitted to the City Clerk, accompanied by the printed name(s) and signatures(s) of the author(s) submitting it, or if submitted on behalf of an organization, the name of the organization, and the printed name and signature of at least one of its principal officers who is the author of the argument, at City Hall, Santa Monica, California. Arguments may be changed or withdrawn until and including the date fixed by the City Clerk.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that pursuant to Santa Monica Municipal Code Section 11.04.125 rebuttal arguments not exceeding 250 words, as submitted by the authors of the opposing direct arguments, may be filed with the Clerk, and shall be signed by any one of the persons filing the original argument, any combination of the persons signing the original argument or by all of the persons filing the original argument. The rebuttal shall not be signed by any person who did not sign the original argument nor shall it contain more than five signatures. The deadline for filing rebuttals with the City Clerk may be not more than ten days after the final date for filing original arguments, the date being Friday, August 16, 2024, 5:00 p.m.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN THAT pursuant to Santa Monica Municipal Code Section 11.04.190, the City Clerk shall make any ordinance, impartial analysis, or direct arguments and rebuttals filed under the authority of the elections code available for public inspection in the City Clerk's office for a period of ten calendar days immediately following the filing deadline of such materials. Any person seeking a writ of mandate or an injunction requiring any or all of the materials to be amended or deleted shall comply with the time requirements in Elections Code Sections 9295 and 13313 for filing such actions. Please call (310) 458-8211 for any additional information.

/s/Nikima S. Newsome, City Clerk
July 24, 2024

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City of Santa Monica

NOTICIA DE ELECCION Y FECHA SOBRE LA CUAL NO SE PODRA PRESENTAR A LA SECRETARIA MUNICIPAL NINGUN ARGUMENTO Y REFUTACION A FAVOR O EN CONTRA DE PROPUESTAS MUNICIPALES

POR LA PRESENTE SE DA AVISO de que se habrá de llevar a cabo una Elección Municipal General en la Ciudad de Santa Mónica el martes, 5 de noviembre de 2024, en la cual se les presentará a los votantes las siguientes propuestas y la fecha después de la cual no se podrá presentar ningún argumento y refutación a favor o en contra de las siguientes medidas:

MEDIDA " ": Para mejorar la seguridad pública, crear rutas seguras a la escuela para proteger a los niños, reducir el riesgo de accidentes de tráfico fatales y mantener otros servicios esenciales de la ciudad, ¿se debería adoptar la medida que aumentará el Impuesto a las Instalaciones de Estacionamiento de la Ciudad de Santa Mónica en un 8% para los usuarios, incluidos visitantes y turistas, sin causar ningún costo adicional en los lotes y estructuras propiedad de la Ciudad (incluido el centro y la playa) debido a una exención parcial de la Ciudad, generando aproximadamente $6,700,000 anuales hasta que los votantes lo terminen?	SI NO
MEDIDA " ": VOTO CONSULTIVO SOLAMENTE: Si se promulga la Medida ___, ¿debería usarse al menos la mitad de los ingresos adicionales recaudados para proteger la seguridad pública en Santa Mónica, lo que incluye atraer y retener a agentes de policía y bomberos bien capacitados, mejorar los servicios de prevención del crimen y las personas sin hogar, aumentar las patrullas policiales y mejorar la respuesta médica de emergencia en vecindarios y áreas públicas, incluido el centro, el muelle y la playa?	SI NO

ADEMAS SE NOTIFICA que en conformidad con el Artículo 4, Capítulo 3, División 9 del Código Electoral del Estado de California, el cuerpo legislativo de la Ciudad, o cualquier miembro omiembros del mismo autorizados por el cuerpo, o todo votante individual o asociación genuinade ciudadanos, o toda combinación de votantes y asociaciones, pueden presentar unargumento escrito , el cual no puede exceder las 300 palabras, acompañado por el nombre onombres impresos, y firma(s) de el/los autores que lo presente, o si es presentado en el nombrede una organización, el nombre de la organización, y el nombre impreso y la firma de por lomenos uno de sus funcionarios principales, quien es el autor o autora del argumento a favor o encontra de la medida municipal. Se aceptará no más de cinco firmas de los autores por cadaargumento presentado.

ADEMAS SE NOTIFICA que, basada en el tiempo razonablemente necesario para preparar e imprimir los argumentos y boletas electorales de muestra para la elección, la Secretaria Municipal ha fijado el martes, 6 de agosto, 2024, a las 5:00 p.m., durante el horario normal de trabajo, según ha sido anunciado, como la fecha después de la cual no se podrá presentar a la Secretaria Municipal ningún argumento a favor o en contra de la medida municipal para su impresión y distribución a los votantes según lo dispuesto en el artículo 4. Los argumentos deberán ser presentados a la Secretaria Municipal, acompañados por el nombre o nombres impresos y firmas de los autores que los presenten, o si son presentados en el nombre de una organización, el nombre de la organización, y el nombre impreso y la firma de por lo menos uno de sus funcionarios principales, quien es el autor del argumento, en el Ayuntamiento en Santa Mónica, California. Los argumentos pueden ser cambiados o retirados hasta e incluyendo la fecha fijada por la Secretaria Municipal.

ADEMAS SE NOTIFICA que basado en Sección 11.04.125 del Código Municipal de Santa Mónica, argumentos de refutación, como presentado por los autores en directa oposición del argumento, los cuales no pueden exceder 250 palabras, pueden ser presentados a la Secretaria Municipal, acompañados por los nombres impresos y firmas de uno de los autores del argumento principal, o con cualquier combinación de firmas de los autores que presentaron el argumento principal, o con todos los autores que firmaron el argumento principal. El argumento de refutación no será firmado por ninguna persona que no firmó el argumento principal, ni deberá contener mas de cinco firmas. La refutación tendrá que ser presentado a la Secretaria Municipal no más de 10 días después de la fecha fijada para presentar los argumentos principales, la fecha siendo el viernes, 16 de agosto, 2024, a las 5:00 p.m.

ADEMAS SE NOTIFICA que basado en Sección 11.04.190 del Código Municipal de Santa Mónica, la Secretaria Municipal hará que toda ordenanza, análisis imparcial, o argumento directo y refutación que sea presentado bajo la autoridad del Código de Elecciones estará a la disposición del público para que lo examine en la oficina de la secretaria por un periodo de 10 días calendario inmediatamente después de la fecha límite para los documentos. Cualquier persona que quiera obtener un mandato judicial ordenando que haya cambios o redacte texto a cualquier documento aquí nombrado, deberá de cumplir con los requisitos de las secciones 9295 y 13313 del Código Estatal de Elecciones. Para información adicional, por favor llame (310) 458-8211.

/s/Nikima S. Newsome, Secretaria Municipal
24 de julio, 2024

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GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Breaking News – More Help For HOAs With Balcony Inspection Requirement

KELLY G. RICHARDSON, ESQ., CCAL

Civil Code Section 5551 requires all HOAs to inspect "exterior elevated elements," which are California HOA's responsibility by December 31, 2024. That statute requires the inspection to be conducted by a licensed architect or structural engineer, and many HOAs are having difficulty finding such professionals to perform the required inspection.

Assembly Bill 2114 helps broaden the field of experts authorized by the statute to perform these inspections by adding civil engineers to the list of authorized design professionals. The bill amends Civil Code Section 5551(b) by adding civil engineers to the list of permissible inspectors. There are over 49,000 civil engineers licensed in California, per the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The structural engineering profession is far smaller in number - the Structural Engineers Association of California has 3,500 members. The increase of available engineers now able to help HOAs with these inspections hopefully will help the thousands of HOAs who have not yet complied with the statute.

Fortunately, A.B. 2114 was passed by both houses and was signed into law by the Governor on July 15, 2024. The bill was an "urgency" bill and effective immediately now that the Governor signed it. The updated language of the statute is available on the California legislatures website at www.leginfo.legislature.ca.gov.

When contracting for these inspections, remember that the inspections are visual. No destructive testing is required (i.e., dismantling of building elements).

Also, look closely at the definition of "exterior elevated elements" in subpart (a)(2) of the statute. These elements include wood structure walking surfaces (balconies, stairs, and walkways) extending beyond the exterior walls of the building and are at least six feet above the ground.

Many HOAs are signing contracts that go far beyond the required inspection elements, and that is fine as long as the HOA is aware and desires a more comprehensive inspection than required.

Once the inspection is completed, the HOA is not required to obtain its next inspection for nine years.

If there are exterior elevated elements that are not HOA responsibility to maintain or repair, those are excluded from the required inspection. This means that planned developments are probably excluded from the statute, unless the planned development HOA has a responsibility to maintain or repair exterior elevated elements. The statute most likely applies to condominiums, stock cooperatives, and community apartments.

Some townhouse-style associations or other associations with two-story buildings have chosen to amend their CC&Rs to remove balcony responsibility from the HOA and place it upon the individual unit owners.

Any doubt regarding how the statute applies to a given HOA should be referred to the HOA's legal counsel for guidance. The law helps reduce the hidden danger of wood weakness from dry rot or other causes. HOA boards and their managers should be working to make sure their HOAs comply with this law as soon as possible. Compliance is legally required, and in my view morally required. Compliance is also good business because the sooner one catches building deterioration the less it normally costs to repair it.

To read California law or pending bills, use the Legislature's official website www.leginfo.legislature.ca.gov. Many law firm websites include words like "HOA", "Law" or even "Davis-Stirling" in their name, but none are official or sanctioned by the state (including www.HOAHomefront.com, of course!).

Kelly G. Richardson CCAL 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. Send column questions to Kelly@roattorneys.com. Past columns at www.HOAHomefront.com. All rights reserved®.

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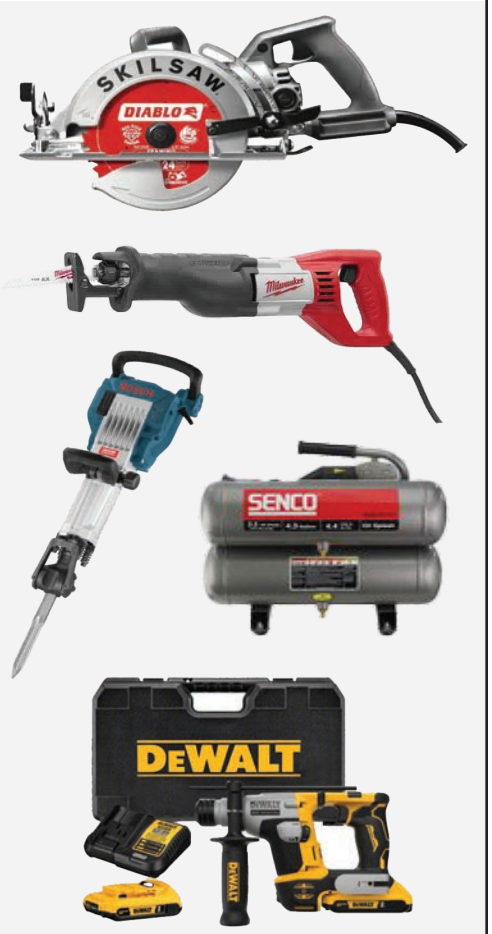


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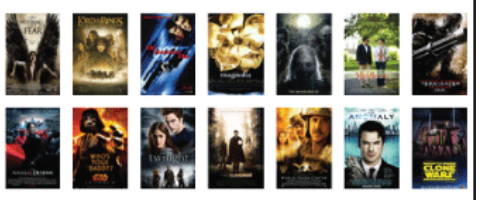


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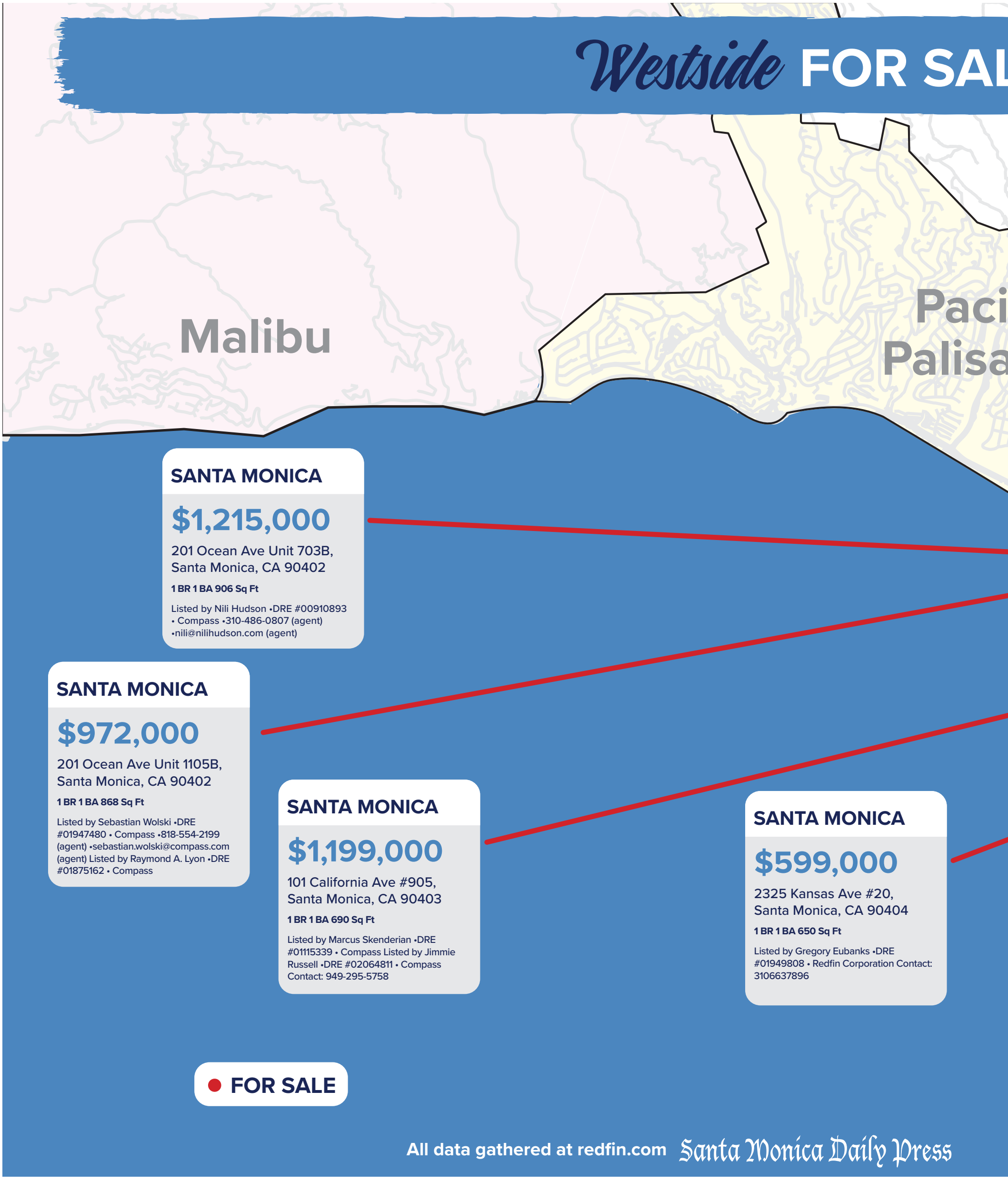
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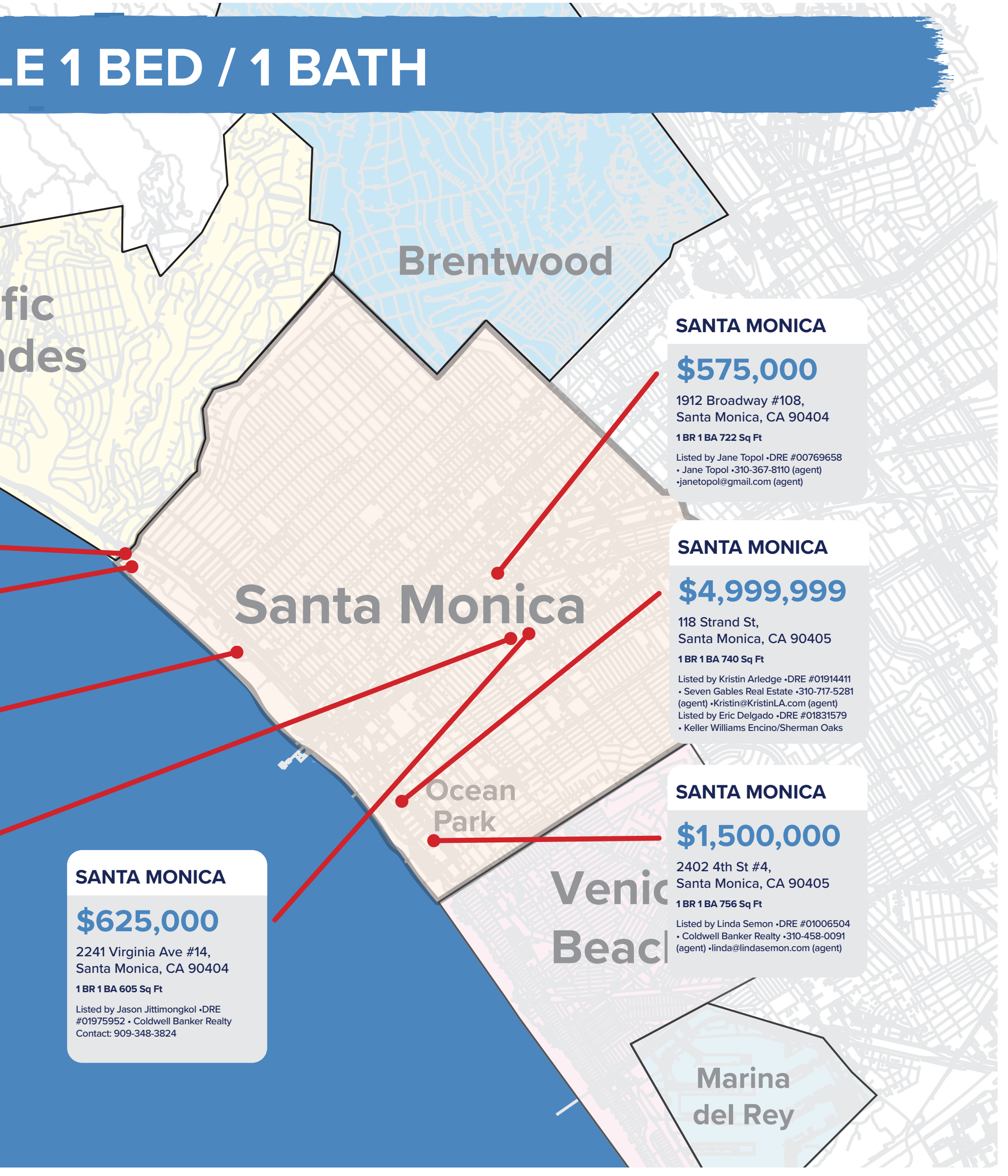
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COMMUNITY NEWS

Citywide

Meals On Wheels West Celebrates Volunteers And Partners At The 2024 Volunteer Appreciation Fiesta

Meals on Wheels West celebrated its 15th annual Volunteer Appreciation Fiesta on Wednesday, July 17th, at the prestigious Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows in Santa Monica. This vibrant event honored the dedicated volunteers and partners who have been pivotal in Delivering More Than a Meal to homebound individuals of all ages in the community.

The evening was filled with heartfelt recognition and celebration. Individual volunteers and groups were awarded in various categories, acknowledging their exceptional contributions and unwavering commitment to the Meals on Wheels West mission. Meals on Wheels West thanks the event sponsors, including BXP, Clark Hill, the Fairmont Miramar, and BFF Foundation.

Key representatives from local partners and teams were in attendance, including Google, Amazon/IMDB, the Pacific Palisades Woman's Club, Jewish Family Services LA, Options for Life, and Ability First. The City of Santa Monica was represented by Councilmember Gleam Davis, Rent Control Board Chair Anastasia Foster, and Human Services Department staff.

These collaborations have been instrumental in expanding the reach and impact of Meals on Wheels West, ensuring that no homebound neighbor goes hungry or feels alone.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of the 2024 Community Partner of the Year award to Providence Saint John's Health Center. Providence Saint John's steadfast support and dedication to the community have significantly bolstered Meals on Wheels West's efforts in providing not only meals, but also Wellness Checks and human connection to our clients.

"Volunteers are the wheels of MOW West, and we could not fulfill our mission without them. Every day, someone feels better because we are Delivering More Than a Meal." ... Chris Baca, Executive Director, Meals on Wheels West.

The 2024 Volunteer Appreciation Fiesta was more than just an event; it was a testament to the power of community and collaboration in creating a supportive, nurturing environment for those in need. For 50 years, MOW West has been serving the community and looks forward to continuing the mission with the help of their dedicated volunteers, funders, and supporters.

Meals on Wheels West's targeted programs include Delivering More Than a Meal, Supporting Veterans on the Homefront, Heal Healthy at Home, Food and Shelter, Community Connections Friendly Calling, and Keeping People and Pets Together. Meals on Wheels West's programs help prevent hunger and reduce isolation in Santa Monica, Venice, Malibu, Pacific Palisades, Marina del Rey, and Del Rey. There is Hidden Hunger even in the most affluent communities.

SUBMITTED BY MEALS ON WHEELS





Courtesy photos
AWARDS: Providence Saint John's Health Center was awarded the 2024 Community Partner of the Year.



FRIDAY | JULY 26

PIANO BAR NIGHT WITH MASTER PIANIST JASON PELSEY
Fairmont Miramar presents "Lobby Lounge Live: Piano Night" every Friday night from 7pm to 10pm. Guests are invited to immerse themselves in the enchanting ambiance of the Lobby Lounge as they enjoy handcrafted cocktails, delectable bites, and the unparalleled talent of master pianist, Jason Pelsey. Fairmont Miramar - Hotel & Bungalows, 101 Wilshire Boulevard. 7 - 10 p.m.

GELSON'S WEST L.A. CELEBRATES SUMMER WITH MONTHLY FRIDAY NIGHT EVENTS
Gelson's is launching a series of free monthly Friday night events at their new West Los Angeles store at West Edge on Friday July 26, August 23, and September 27 from 3pm to 7pm. Designed for the epicurious, each event promises an evening of delicious bites and sips from Gelson's premium purveyors and food trucks, lively music, outdoor games, and a variety of exciting giveaways. Gelson's West LA, 12121 W Olympic Blvd

THE IRL SHOW (PG-RATED STAND-UP COMEDY)
IRL Show: Every 4th Friday of the month at 8 pm Finally, a pro-level stand-up comedy show for middle school & and high school tweens & teens 10 and up. Catch comics from Comedy Central, HBO, and late night TV doing their best PG material. Talk to the comics after the show to meet and learn from the best! Tickets: $10 with student ID, $20 general admission. PLUS — COME EARLY! The Crow orders pizza for everyone and hosts a free teen open mic at 7pm, the hour before the show. Come by to try it out and get some feedback from a pro-comic! Or hang out and watch and support the mic. The Crow, 2525 Michigan Ave., F4. https://crowcomedy.com/

SATURDAY | JULY 27

BOOK CLUB FOR MIDDLE GRADE READERS: "BAN THIS BOOK" BY ALAN GRATZ
Please e-mail: akagan@lapl.org or gkim@lapl.org for the Zoom login information. Middle-grade readers are invited to participate in the fun monthly book discussions. This month they will be reading, Ban This Book by Alan Gratz. For ADA accommodations, call (213) 228-7430 at least 72 hours prior to the event.

MARINE PARK CG GARDEN PARTY AND VOLUNTEER FINGERPRINTING AND REGISTRATION
Stop by to help paint compost bins, clean up garden beds, and spend some time outside. Free Live Scan fingerprinting services will be available for anyone interested in becoming a regular City of Santa Monica Volunteer. Please stop by this event to complete your Live Scan Volunteer requirement and start volunteering regularly in the gardens! The Community Garden is located at the western edge of the park, situated between the tennis courts and the homes next to the park. Don't worry, it is back there next to the last tennis court. 9 a.m. - 11 p.m.

SUNDAY | JULY 28

SANTA MONICA AIRPORT ANTIQUE MARKET
Santa Monica Airport, 2800-3200 Airport Ave, 7 a.m. - 3 p.m. Noted as One of the Top Ten "Flea Markets' in America, visit the Santa Monica Airport Antique Market, a fun outdoor (and dog-friendly!) market full of many great dealers with furniture, antiques, collectibles, art, vintage clothes, jewelry, rugs and much more. A destination for decorators, designers, boutique owners, families with their friendly dogs and collectors of all ages. https://www.santamonicaairportantiquemarket.com/

MONDAY | JULY 29

BABY TIME: SESSION 1
10:30 - 10:50 a.m.
Santa Monica Public Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd.
Introduce your child to storytime with interactive books, bounces, and more. Free tickets available at 10:15 and 11:15 a.m. For ages 0-17 month

TEEN MOVIE NIGHT: TWILIGHT (2008)
4:30 - 7:15 p.m.
Santa Monica Public Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd.
Join organizers for a screening of Twilight, based on Stephenie Meyer's YA novel of the same name. Pizza and light snacks will be provided. Film starts at 5 p.m. Runtime: 121 minutes. Rated PG-13. For ages 13-18

TUESDAY | JULY 30

AUTHOR TALK WITH DAN SANTAT
11 a.m. - 12 p.m. Graphic Novels are Life! Telling Your Own Story in a Graphic Novel with Dan Santat. Join this year's winner of the National Book Award for Young People's Literature, Dan Santat, as he inspires tweens and teens to tell their own stories through graphic novels. His winning book, A First Time for Everything, is a graphic memoir based on his own awkward middle school years and the trip to Europe that changed his life. Dan Santat began drawing as a young boy and although he first studied microbiology, he pursued his passion in illustration. He spent many hours as a child and teenager teaching himself to draw by copying illustrations from comic books until he developed the unique, recognizable style that we see today. His talk will inspire listeners to draw their own story as well as give them practical tips on the creation of graphic novels. Virtual https://libraryc.org/smclibrary/51238/register

WHAT'S FREE AT THE LIBRARY?
4 - 5 p.m. Virtual and West Los Angeles Regional Library, 11360 Santa Monica Boulevard. This program will be in person and on Zoom. Email westla@lapl.org for the Zoom link. Want to learn how to get e-books, audiobooks, magazines, movies, and the NY Times, WSJ, WaPo for free? Access Consumer Reports? Want to go to the zoo, CA state parks, Grammy, or Natural History Museum? Stream 20M songs? Learn how it's all free with your library card! For ADA accommodations, call (213) 228-7430 at least 72 hours prior to the event.

WEDNESDAY | JULY 31

ANIMAL FEEDING DEMONSTRATIONS
1 - 3 p.m. Heal the Bay Aquarium, 1600 Ocean Front Walk. Swim by and visit the Aquarium every Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday to observe local marine animals, and watch live feeding demonstrations by Aquarium staff. Join them for Mealtime at 1 & 3 p.m. every Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday!

HANDS-ONLY CPR
2:30 - 4:30 p.m. Palisades Branch Library, 861 Alma Real Drive, Pacific Palisades. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health is coming to the library to provide Hands-Only CPR training. This is drop-in training - come anytime between 2:30 and 4:30 p.m - it only takes about 10 minutes to complete. Note: this is not a certified CPR class. You will not receive a certificate. This training is: A life-saving skill that will help you feel more confident to respond in an emergency.
CPR without mouth-to-mouth breaths
Only to be used on teens or adults
No documents are required from anyone who would like to be trained.

LOBBY LOUNGE LIVE : PIANO NIGHT
7 - 10 p.m. Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows presents Lobby Lounge Live: Piano Bar Night with master pianist Jason Pelsey Every Friday | 7pm-10pm Guests are invited to immerse themselves in the enchanting ambiance of the Lobby Lounge as they enjoy handcrafted cocktails, delectable bites, and the unparalleled talent of master pianist, Jason Pelsey. Get ready be to serenaded with his captivating melodies and make requests throughout the night. Pelsey's dynamic repertoire spans the latest hits to timeless classics, promising an evening of musical delight for all. As a special treat, six lucky attendees will have the opportunity to join Pelsey at the piano for an unforgettable musical experience (first come, first serve). Don't miss your chance to be part of Santa Monica's newest tradition! For more information, visit fairmont-miramar.com/events/lobby-lounge-live-piano

COMEDIANS VS. AI: STAGE AGAINST THE MACHINE
Westside Comedy Theater, 1323-A 3rd Street. Join Comedians Allison Goldberg and Brad Einstein as they bring a panel of all-star comedians to go head-to-disembodied head with the AI that's stealing their jobs. From creating pick-up lines alongside ChatGPT to delivering impromptu art history lessons about Dall-E-generated images live on stage, this unhinged (arguably unethical, definitely dehumanizing) competition explores the emerging A.I. frontier—and its implications—in a way that doesn't make you want to weep in the shower as soon as you get home. Doors - 7:35PM // Show - 8:00PM
$18 Early Bird $25 General Admission
Lineup subject to change No Refunds or Exchanges. Ticket/seat subject to forfeit 20 min. after show time
$18-25
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/comedians-vs-ai-stage-against-the-machine-tickets-936102316227

THURSDAY | AUGUST 1

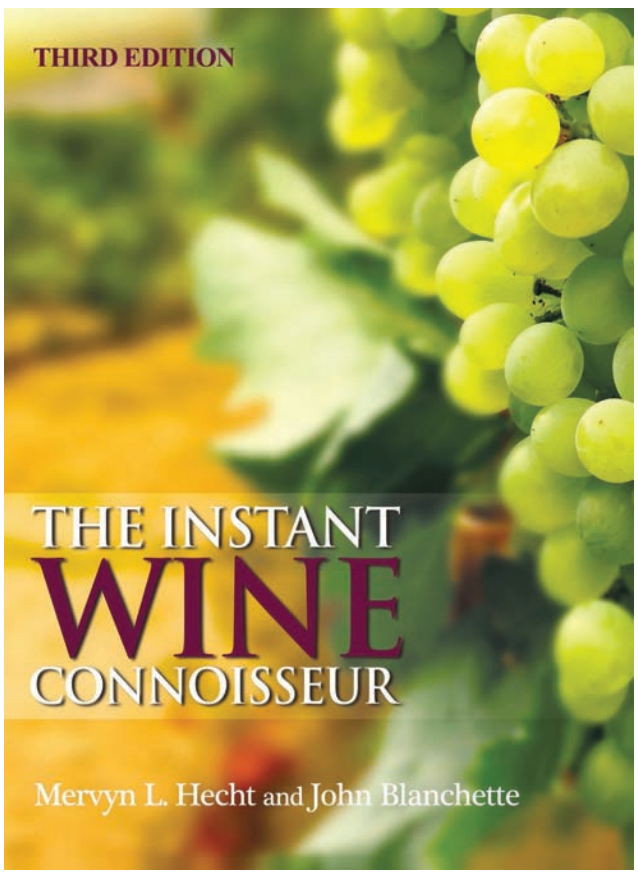
DUNGEONS & DRAGONS AT THE LIBRARY - GROUP TWO
1 - 3:30 p.m. Donald Bruce Kaufman - Brentwood Branch Library, 11820 San Vicente Boulevard, Los Angeles, Space is limited! Please sign up online at https://www.lapl.org/whats-on/events/dungeons-dragons-library-group-two.
Kids and teens aged 9-14 are invited to join us for summer D&D Adventures! These will be incredibly fun adventures in fantasy taking place over three weeks and led by a professional Dungeon Master.

HOUSING COMMISSION
6 p.m. The Santa Monica Housing Commission is a city advisory body whose mission is to protect and improve the quality of life of all Santa Monicans by listening to input from city residents and staff, publicly deliberating, and providing recommendations to both the Santa Monica City Council and Santa Monica Housing Authority Board on issues related to housing in Santa Monica. The Santa Monica Housing Commission is committed to strengthening the social, economic, and cultural vitality and diversity of Santa Monica through habitable, fair, and equitable housing for all. 1685 Main Street.

PANORAMA SESSIONS PRESENTS
9:30 p.m. Harvelle's Santa Monica, 1432 4th St,
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CONSERVANCY

FROM PAGE 1

the second Saturday of every month from 10:30am to noon, the new Main Street Walk is designed to reveal the vibrant assemblage of personalities, dreams, real estate transactions, politics, urban planning, transportation, construction materials that make up the neighborhood. A new Third Street Historic District Walk will also make its debut soon.

"So we're about 300 or 350 members, we have a small staff, and we've been around for 20 years. And over these last two decades, we have slowly built up, let's say, the historical awareness in our city," said Mario Fonda-Bonardi, Executive Committee Member of the Santa Monica Conservancy.

"Our city is a very small city and 90,000 people are surrounded by three and a half million people and another city called Los Angeles. And so we are very much influenced by this other city. But we also have some unique identity of our own. And that's one of the things that we're trying to enhance and preserve, because all cities are subjected to the same development pressures and the same historical cycles that all cities go through."

The non-profit organization is itself based in a building with a history all of its own. Called the Shotgun House, it's one of the few remaining examples that still exist of the relatively inexpensive, quick-build-style, small family dwellings that were popular across the country in the late 1800s and early 1900s. They could loosely be compared to shipping container-style dwellings of today and historic preservation efforts have led to the renovation of such houses in areas that have undergone gentrification.

The Conservancy and other community groups saved the Shotgun House from demolition in 2002 and after two moves and considerable effort, the Shotgun House found a new

home at 2520 Second Street. It was painstakingly restored by the Conservancy and opened to the public as a Preservation Resource Center in 2016. Built in 1897, the little house is the last remaining dwelling of its type in Santa Monica and is a designated City Landmark.

In addition to expanding existing free weekend walk-in visitor tours of the Shotgun

House itself over the summer, the Conservancy is opening the little house to a series of

community gatherings. These include bi-monthly roundtable discussions to share

stories about the city's neighborhoods and histories, starting on Saturday, July 20 from

11–1pm.

You may have also noticed that Mayor Phil Brock's own unique stamp on City Council meetings in his "Mayoral Moment" is a three minute video that looks at a different element of the City's rich and extremely interesting history before each meeting. That's put together with the kind assistance of the Conservancy.

In May, the Conservancy held its annual Annual Preservation Awards, an event that Catherine Azimi, Communications Manager, called "our Oscars." Among the awards that reflected exemplary contributions to the preservation of Santa Monica's architectural and cultural heritage, were the Bay Cities Guaranty Building (aka the Clock Tower) recognized for its restoration, Barker Hangar for its adaptive reuse and the Annenberg Community Beach House for its restoration and repair of its iconic wooden flooring.

Moreover, Azimi says that the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium is moving forward with the State Historic Resources Board to have a hearing to nominate it as a national registered landmark on August 2 in Sacramento.

The new Main Street Walk is hosted by Mark Gorman and registration is required to participate. The Shotgun House tours are on offer most weekends from 12–2pm. The Conservancy's Third Street Walk makes its debut on Sunday, August 11 from noon to 1pm and registration is also required. All tours come at the very reasonable price of being completely free.

For more information and additional details on everything mentioned here, go to the Santa Monica Conservancy website at smconservancy.org.

scott.snowden@smdp.com

HOMELESS

FROM PAGE 2

Newsom touted that his administration has spent roughly $24 billion cleaning up streets and housing people but acknowledged the persistent issue. Newsom's administration has also come under fire recently after a state audit found that the state didn't consistently track whether the huge amount of public money spent on this actually improved the situation.

Earlier this year, Newsom threw all of his political weight behind a ballot measure to allow the state to borrow nearly $6.4 billion to build 4,350 housing units, which passed with a razor-thin margin.

The order comes as Republicans have stepped up their criticisms of Vice President Kamala Harris — a former California district attorney, attorney general and senator who just launched her presidential campaign. Harris entered the race over the weekend after President Joe Biden's announced that he would not seek reelection.

Newsom himself has presidential ambitions, though he's said he wouldn't run against Harris or Biden. He has long been a top Biden campaign surrogate.

The timing of the executive order is "curious" given recent developments in the 2024 presidential race, California political analyst Brian Sobel said. He doubts though that Newsom's move would have much impact on Harris' campaign.

"Harris' problem isn't in California, because California is a done deal," he said. "Where she needs to do well on issues like this are in swing states."

Rather, the order is a logical step for Newsom, who called himself the state's "homeless czar," said Wesley Hussey, a political science professor at California State University, Sacramento.

"I don't think it's being motivated by the presidential race as much as it's definitely something that Newsom cared a lot about," Hussey said. "If you're going to put it in a political context of the election, this isn't going to magically fix the problem."

Santa Monica Daily Press
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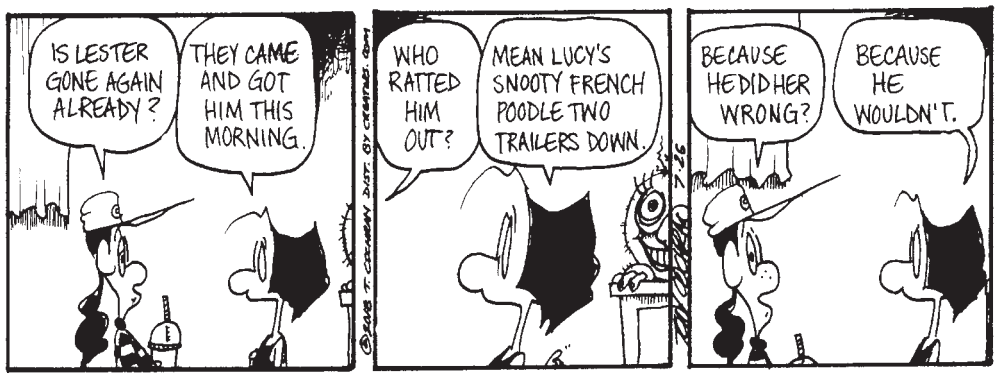
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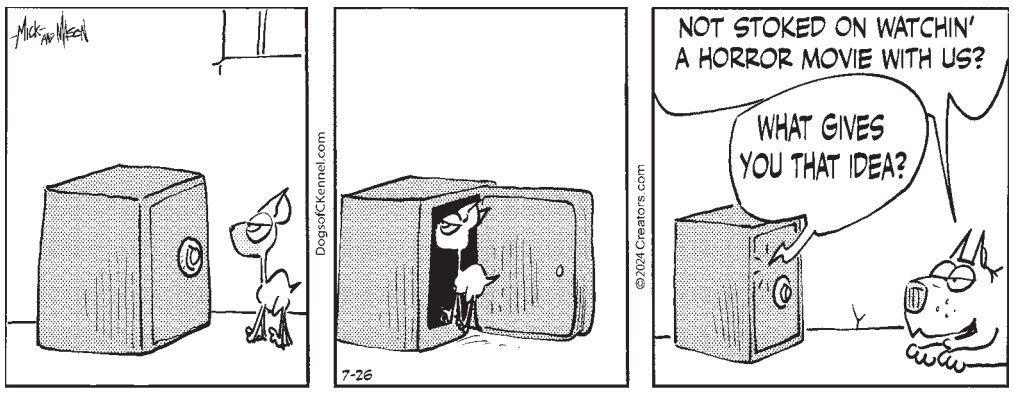
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



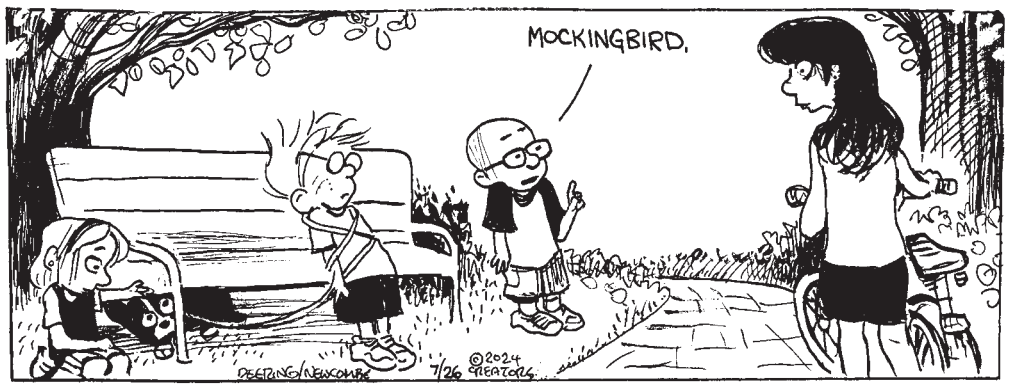
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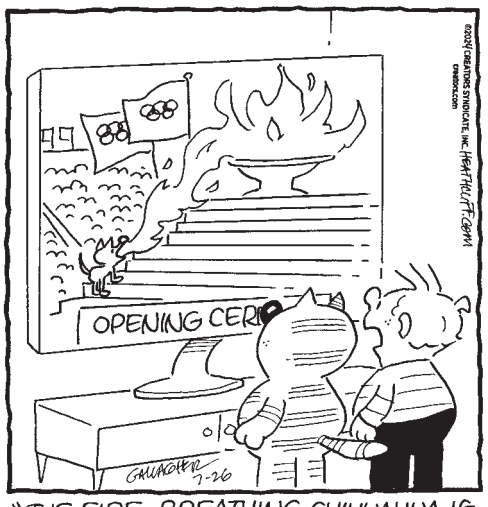
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



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 13 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

© australianwordgames.com.au 6283

Tassie or bust

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

Auburn	Guide	Ouse	Sunshine
Avoca	Heka	Owls	Surf
Bagdad	Manufac-	Paper	Targa
Cluan	ture	Parks	Temma
Coast	Maydena	Peak	Tours
Cool	MONA	Penna	Trek
Cruise	Moss	Reefs	Ulverstone
Dams	froglet	Risks	Views
Derby	Nala	Safe	Walk
Fauna	Neika	Sailing	Weather
Ferry	Nile	Sandy Bay	Wild
Fish	Oaks	Seals	
Gray	Ocean	Sorell	

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (July 26)

You'll be admired, applauded, befriended and well-paid for your stellar attitude. It's not always light, heavy or any one thing; rather you've an uncanny way of figuring out just the right tone to match the challenge. More highlights: a lucrative investment, upgrades to lifestyle, and a new and health-enhancing structure to your days. Capricorn and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 15, 28, 5 and 3.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Everything alive must rest at some point. Even germs go to sleep — not the same way creatures with central nervous systems do, but they have their cycles of activity and inactivity. Optimum health will involve obeying the natural cycle.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Sensations are not, in and of themselves, contentedness, but they are a pathway to contentedness. To be warmed from the inside. Movement is key. To stretch and invigorate physically, emotionally or spiritually will make you feel most alive.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You'll give the kind of attention that validates and empowers. Because people feel seen and heard around you, they'll open up. You'll figure out how to align individual talents and motivate excellent groupwork.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). As you strive for improvement and self-awareness, keep in mind that this is completely your choice. You are free to do as you wish. Your worth is intrinsic and does not depend on external factors such as wins or losses, hits or misses.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Whatever you want to know about the world will teach you about yourself. This is why your curiosity is always appropriate, though it may not be appropriate to pursue it, depending on the boundaries in play.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Disagreement, disapproval and discomfort can be a gift. Even disgust can be a gift. Instead of shying away, consider leaning in. What can you embrace? What, if absorbed, would make you stronger?

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll experience time according to the company you keep. Some make moments seem longer, others make them fly, and then there are those who turn minutes into something flexible that stretches and snaps to the rhythms of the heart.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Progress isn't always immediate or apparent, but that doesn't mean it's not happening. Today's progress will be intangible but profound and require time to take seed, but do not doubt that one idea could make all the difference.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Practice self-compassion by treating yourself with the same kindness and understanding you would offer a friend. Humor will lighten the emotional load and offer a different, more playful perspective.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You will finally get a better analysis of a problem that's been difficult to solve. Perception has been part of the issue. Understanding the origins of the trouble and the other pressures in play will change the way you see and handle things.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Are you adaptable? Today will take you through the twists that give you your answer — yes, and how! While the As Shakespeare suggested, all is well that ends well.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Imperfections make you unique. They contribute to your personal growth and foster resilience. They do not define your potential or your value, which exist irrespective of your actions or others' opinions.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

S	L	O	M	O	■	R	O	W	S	■	P	S	S	T
B	I	D	U	P	■	E	M	I	T	■	R	E	P	O
A	S	O	N	E	■	N	A	N	A	■	O	V	U	M
■	P	R	I	N	T	E	R	D	R	I	V	E	R	■
■	■	■	■	T	O	W	■	■	T	M	E	N	■	■
■	T	A	B	O	R	■	S	A	S	H	■	H	C	L
S	A	L	E	■	S	P	A	M	■	I	D	I	N	A
T	E	L	E	V	I	S	I	O	N	P	I	L	O	T
O	B	E	S	E	■	I	N	R	I	■	B	L	T	S
W	O	N	■	N	A	S	T	■	M	A	S	S	E	■
■	■	S	U	M	P	■	■	A	B	S	■	■	■	■
■	S	C	H	O	O	L	S	K	I	P	P	E	R	■
P	E	R	U	■	L	E	A	R	■	E	L	D	E	R
A	G	E	R	■	L	E	G	O	■	C	I	G	N	A
W	A	W	A	■	O	R	A	N	■	T	E	E	T	H

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

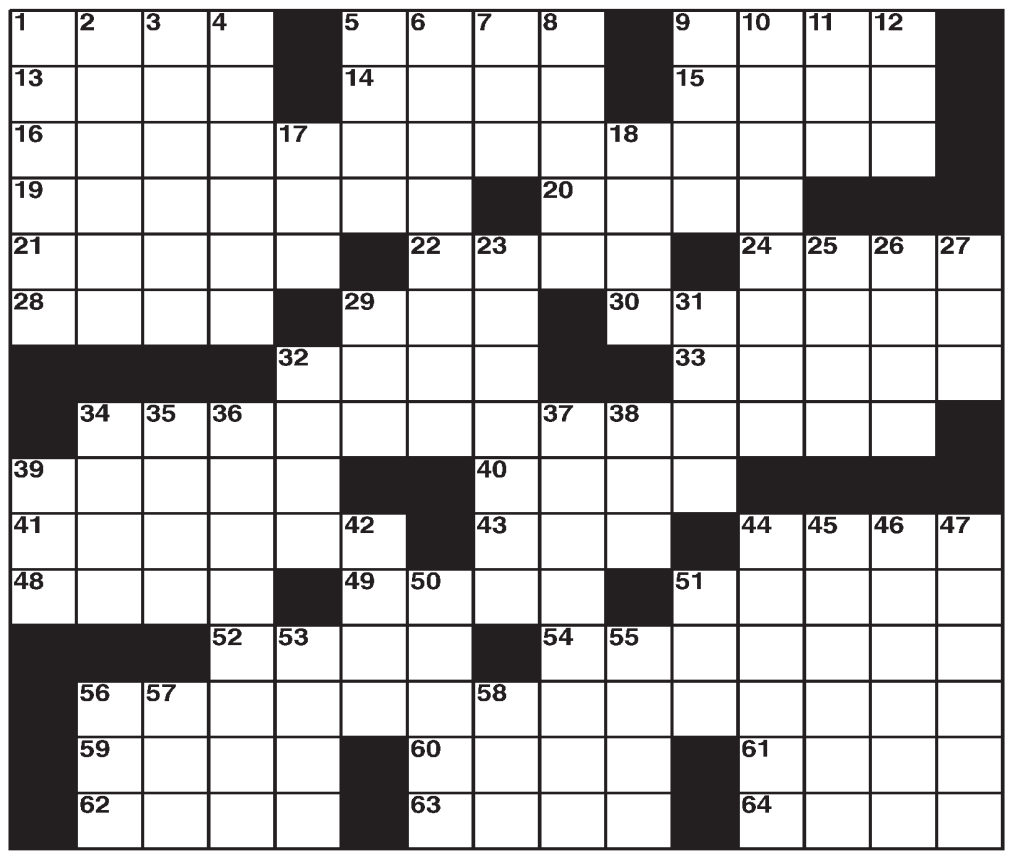
IN UNIFORM by Prasanna Keshava
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Toys that are loud
5 Quite a spell
9 Not quite white
13 Rat follower
14 Thoughtful person
15 Privy to
16 ...in a board game
19 Fishy furnishing
20 Statement showing surprise
21 Castilian hero
22 Sign of disuse
24 NBA locale
28 Bug repellent
29 Young coyote
30 Elaborately adorned
32 Most helpful
33 Marquee name
34 ...in a sitcom
39 With a key
40 Bingo call
41 56-Across, for one
43 Driver's club
44 Ensigns, for instance
48 No walk in the park
49 Accusatory phrase
51 Flat hat
52 Lock opener
54 Slender howler
56 ...on a '60s album cover
59 Drizzle acronym
60 Nellie Bly contemporary
61 Held up, perhaps
62 Top suits
63 A, as in history books
64 Gas still sold in Saskatchewan

DOWN

1 Very full
2 Priam portrayer in *Troy*
3 Hostile intent
4 Response to sweet talk
5 Arabian port
6 *Call of the Wild* backdrop
7 Shade source
8 Funny money
9 Small portions
10 Intuitively
11 Fish-fowl link
12 Most remote point
17 Drift (off)
18 __ speak (in a way)
23 Standing at home
25 Conversation conclusion
26 Loads
27 Dinghy designation
29 By order of
31 Water fall
32 Arizona's state neckwear
34 Secure, as a ship
35 Last Stuart queen
36 Aussie rancher trainee
37 LBJ Library locale
38 Green land
39 What many get a charge out of
42 Dish (out)
44 Eyeglasses sidepiece
45 South American corn cakes
46 Timer adjustments
47 More than one-track
50 Papal topper
51 Modern sweetie
53 Groups like CARE
55 __ facto
56 Brief time
57 Ancestor to all
58 French diarist



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SIGN

FROM PAGE 1

the Council said the insulation remained, as did the falsehoods.

"So the banner disparages our city. It disparages our City Manager. It's completely offensive. It's absolutely false, as I stated last time, the previous banner was even reported as containing false information, and a cease and desist was sent to the property owner, and, quite frankly, discourages economic activity in our Downtown so the very businesses we're trying to recover are being harmed by this one property owner who refuses to remove the sign," said Councilwoman Caroline Torosis. "And I also find it really offensive that the Santa Monica coalition is attempting to weaponize free speech to justify the spreading of misinformation. It's not acceptable."

City officials said Santa Monica had not sent a legal letter over the previous Pride Month themed sign but said there was a private dispute between Alle and a nonprofit group Gay and Sober after their name was used on the June banner.

Vice Mayor Negrete said past banners were blatantly false regarding Councilmember approval of the needle exchange program and that business owners on the Promenade had told her they oppose the sign

"Unfortunately, my other concern is just yesterday, I visited a business directly across the street from the sign, and once they were asking me who I am and what I do, they immediately said, 'how do we get that sign down? It's so bad for our business.' And I said, 'Oh, you mean the businesses don't support this sign?' No, in fact, the bigger the sign, the worse it is."

Alle has accused the city of trying to stifle his free speech rights, something Councilman Jesse Zwick specifically addressed.

"There's been some misleading comments that I think were addressed at the last meeting as well, that the city is somehow curtailing free speech with this resolution. But as is quite clear, and as the City Attorney had previously addressed, just as you allow residents and property owners and business owners to say whatever they want. We too, are allowed to say whatever we want, including the fact that your sign is juvenile and misleading," he said.

Mayor Phil Brock said the signs had been egregious for two years and that Alle's efforts should be focused on improving the business climate downtown.

"His object should be to work with his fellow merchants, work with the people on the Promenade, to work with the people on second and fourth Street and Ocean Avenue, trying to attract more business to the promenade and more people, more shoppers, more diners, more people to the promenade," he said.

Councilwoman Davis said the recent change to the sign was potentially evidence that their accusations of falsehoods were correct.

"I think the removal of the original sign is somewhat of an indication that perhaps we were actually right, that they did misstate the facts," she said.

In a letter sent to the Council before the meeting, Alle defended his various signs saying his accusations have been accurate and that the recently changed sign was previously scheduled, not any action from the city.

Alle's letter went on to threaten the city with legal action over the Council's formal disapproval.

"I have been defamed by statements of the Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council, City Manager, and by the staff report prepared, reviewed, and/or approved by all of you addressed in this letter, with regard to the Resolution and public comments claiming that the prior banner was false," he said.

editor@smdp.com

COMMUNITY NEWS

Citywide

Kara Belsky Named New Assistant Principal of Grant Elementary

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD) Board of Education approved the appointment of Kara Belsky as the new assistant principal of Grant Elementary School at its July 24, 2024, regular board meeting. Belsky will assume her new role on August 1, 2024.

Belsky brings a wealth of experience and a strong commitment to educational leadership. Her journey in education includes significant roles that have shaped her into an exemplary leader.

During her time with Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), Belsky served in teaching and leadership roles at Warner Avenue Elementary School in Westwood where she taught fourth grade and also served as the tutoring designee, school site council chairperson, instructional leadership team member, and student council board of teachers member. She analyzed student data, developed school-wide schedules, created My Integrated Student Information System (MiSiS) courses, and collaborated with tutoring personnel.

Before her tenure at LAUSD, Belsky taught second grade and served as the building teacher leader at Boyd E. Smith Elementary School in Milford, Ohio. In this role, she assisted the principal in developing instructional and student schedules, coordinating testing, and analyzing assessment data. She also analyzed data and distributed information from social-emotional student surveys, contributed to the English language arts and standards-based grading committees, and managed curriculum supplies and instructional materials.

In her teaching roles, she designed and delivered a rigorous, engaging, standards-based curriculum, fostering a safe, creative, and empowering learning environment for her students.

"I am so thrilled about the opportunity to join the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District at Grant Elementary," said Belsky. "In only a short amount of time, I have come to find how warm and welcoming the administrative team is, which I am sure is only a glimpse into the entire district. I feel extreme gratitude to be a part of this wonderful community, and I am eager to immerse myself in the Grant Elementary family alongside the dedicated staff and teachers, families, and most importantly, students."

Belsky holds a master's degree in educational leadership from the University of Cincinnati and a bachelor's degree in early childhood education from Miami University. She possesses a multiple subject teaching credential and anticipates receiving her preliminary administrative services credential in July 2024.

"Ms. Belsky's extensive background and innovative approach to education make her an excellent addition to Grant Elementary School," said Superintendent Dr. Antonio Shelton. "Her dedication to fostering an inclusive and supportive learning environment aligns perfectly with our district's values. We are confident that she will have a significant and positive impact on our students and community."

SUBMITTED BY DIANA BOUCHAAYA

COMMUNITY NEWS

Citywide

Venice Family Clinic celebrates National Health Center Week

Venice Family Clinic, a nonprofit community health center serving 45,000 people in need from the Santa Monica Mountains through the South Bay, will celebrate National Health Center Week (NHCW) 2024 August 5-9 with events at its clinic sites in Culver City, Hawthorne, Inglewood, Santa Monica and Venice.

"Powering Communities through Caring Connections" is the theme for this year's National Health Center Week, an annual event that highlights the essential role Venice Family Clinic and the rest of the nation's community health centers play in improving public health and advancing health equity. Venice Family Clinic will celebrate the week by offering school supplies, bicycle helmets, immunizations, healthy food, health care, insurance and CalFresh enrollment and other services and supplies free of charge to its patients and members of the community.

"Venice Family Clinic is committed to empowering the communities it serves by providing comprehensive care that ranges from distributing nutritious food to combat hunger to ensuring everyone has access to health care regardless of their income or immigration status," said Venice Family Clinic CEO Dr. Mitesh Popat. "During this special week, we are proud to be recognized for the vital role we play in improving the lives and health of the people we serve."

Venice Family Clinic will be hosting the following activities during National Health Center Week:

Free Food Market Plus: The Clinic will distribute free healthy fruits and vegetables and provide CalFresh and health insurance enrollment, free COVID-19 vaccines (for uninsured and Medi-Cal patients) and other services.

When: Monday, August 5, 9-11 a.m.

Where: Venice Family Clinic's Inglewood South La Brea Health Center, 1091 S. La Brea Ave., Inglewood, CA 90301.

Garden Together Day: Patients and the community can decorate and plant individual mini planter pots to take home while they learn about gardening, connect with the Clinic's health insurance enrollment and Early Head Start programs, and register to vote.

When: Tuesday, August 6, 2-4 p.m.

Where: Venice Family Clinic's Simms/Mann Health and Wellness Center, 2509 Pico Blvd. Santa Monica, CA 90405.

Homeless Connect Day: People experiencing homelessness can connect with Clinic services, including medical care, dental cleanings and consultations, health insurance enrollment, CalFresh enrollment, overdose prevention supplies, testing for Hep C and sexually transmitted infections including syphillis, for which L.A. County Department of Public Health will provide initial treatment onsite. L.A. County Homeless Court will help with pedestrian and traffic tickets, and celebrity stylist Jason Schneidman will give free haircuts. Venice Family Clinic will also provide hygiene kits, showers, a bike valet and hot meals.

When: Wednesday, August 7, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Where: Venice Family Clinic's Chuck Lorre Rose Avenue Health and Wellness Center, 604 Rose Ave., Venice, CA 90291.

Free Food Market: Community members and patients can receive free fruits and vegetables and register to vote in this year's election.

When: Thursday, August 8, 9-11 a.m.

Where: Venice Family Clinic's Irma Colen Health Center, 4700 Inglewood Blvd, Culver City, CA 90230.

Children's Health Day: Students can get free school supplies, bicycle helmets and pediatric vaccines (for uninsured and Medi-Cal recipients). Their parents and caregivers can enroll in health insurance and CalFresh. Information about the Clinic's Early Head Start program and other resources will be available. Children and their families may also enjoy face painting, balloons, arts and crafts and a food truck providing free meals.

When: Friday, August 9, 2-6 p.m.

Where: Venice Family Clinic's Maxine Waters Health and Dignity Center at York School, 11838 York Ave, Hawthorne, CA 90250.

For more information about Venice Family Clinic's National Health Center Week events, visit https://venicefamilyclinic.org/nhcw24.

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