

# Los Feliz Ledger

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Read by 100,000+ Residents and Business Owners in Los Feliz, Silver Lake, Atwater Village, Echo Park & Hollywood Hills

April 2019

## Development in Waiting Attracts Squatters

By Erin Hickey Pinheiro  
Ledger Contributing Writer

**LOS FELIZ**—The planned April demolition of a Valero gas station and two residential buildings to make way for a controversial mixed-use apartment complex at the corner of Franklin and Western avenues, can't come soon enough, according to nearby residents who say the lot has become a safety hazard and a source of blight in the neighborhood.

Locals say the buildings, which have sat vacant since developer Dynamic purchased the property in August, have become home to a group of squatters, who they say have vandalized the property, illegally diverted utility lines and disturbed the peace.

But according to Los Feliz Neighborhood Council (LFNC) President Jon Deutsch, the issue has now "gone beyond a nuisance and become a safety issue," after one recent instance when squatters broke a gas meter while trying to scale a fence surrounding the property.

According to Deutsch, the break created a significant natural gas leak on the property, which went unnoticed for days, and could have resulted in a fire or an explosion had someone lit a cigarette nearby.

"Vandalism is one thing, but threatening the health and safety of others is another," Deutsch said at a March 19th LFNC meeting.

One tenant of a neighboring apartment complex said he is regularly woken up by late-night and early-morning disruptions in the alley between his building and the Dynamic property.

see SQUATTERS page 3

## With Firestorms on the Rise, How Safe is Griffith Park?

By Ethan Varian  
Ledger Contributing Writer



The last major fire in Griffith Park, in 2007, scorched more than 800 acres. Atwater Village resident Eric Beteille captured this image of the blaze. Photo: Flickr Creative Commons.

On a hot afternoon last July, a brush fire broke out near Griffith Observatory, forcing nearly 2,000 visitors to evacuate the west side of Griffith Park.

To exit people from the area, authorities closed park entrances to incoming traffic, sent out emergency text alerts and instructed most visitors to leave behind their cars and depart on foot.

No one was injured in the 30-acre fire and the evacuation appears to have been effective.

But even with response plans in place, experts say there are still public safety risks that must be addressed for fire-prone areas such as Griffith Park, especially as climate change exacerbates the threat of more dangerous wildfires.

While Los Angeles is no longer in a state of drought, experts say we should expect increased fire danger heading into the summer. This is because above-average rainfall last winter has resulted in an abundance of grass and vegetation, which could provide excess fuel for fires.

California fire officials have also said the so-called "firestorms" that used to occur once in a lifetime are now happening more often, even yearly.

The Camp Fire, which consumed over 153,000 acres, burned down 13,927 homes and caused 85 deaths in Paradise, CA in the summer of 2018 is now known as a case study of a community built in an otherwise rural, natural area, with little defense against wildfire.

"Our concern should be elevated," University of Colorado Professor Gregory

see FIRES page 25

## Goldberg & Repenning to Face Off in May LAUSD General Election

By Sarah Favot, Ledger Contributing Writer

The election for the local seat on the Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education will be decided in a May 14th runoff.

Former elected official Jackie Goldberg, of Echo Park, will compete against Heather Repenning, of Los Feliz, who is running in her first election.

The March 5th primary election was a close contest between second and third place. Goldberg, who is a former teacher, LAUSD board member, Los Angeles City Council member and Democratic state legislator, handily lead the field of 10 candidates, garnering 48.18% of the votes cast, but failed to reach the more than 50% majority needed to

avoid a runoff.

In an interview, Goldberg said she thought it was possible to win the race outright, but it was more likely than not that there would be a runoff.

"We thought there was a small chance that we would take it all because our field campaign had so many volunteers," she said.

After the final ballots were tallied, Repenning, the former Vice President of the city's Board of Public Works, maintained a 31-vote lead over Graciela Ortiz, a Huntington Park City Councilmember.

On election night, Ortiz held the number two spot with a 53-vote lead over Repenning. However, as more vote-by-mail

ballots were counted throughout the following days, Repenning jumped over Ortiz to second place and maintained it.

As of publication, it is unclear if Ortiz will request a recount. A campaign or any member of the public can ask for a recount within five days of the official canvass.

Repenning said in an interview it was a fight to get into second place.

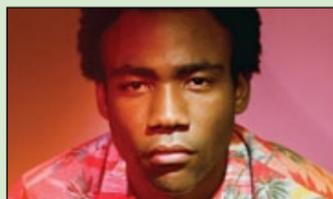
"I am excited. It was a very crowded ballot. There was my current opponent who had a lot of name ID, who got an incredible advantage because of the strike in January and then there was the rest of us, who

see LAUSD page 4



### EASTER CALENDAR:

Here comes Peter Cottontail, page 2



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Local acts playing this year's Coachella, page 4



### LOCAL ELECTIONS:

A look at who's running for neighborhood council April 6th, page 6



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What will replace OSH on Hollywood Blvd.? Why not a rec center?, page 35



### FOOD & DINING:

Silver Lake's oldest restaurants, losfelizledger.com

[LETTER FROM THE PUBLISHER]

There's a very ugly underpinning in the upcoming Silver Lake Neighborhood Council (SLNC) election, where a current boardmember, who's not seeking re-election but who some say is "disgruntled" and wants the current board to not win reelection, has accused another boardmember, who is seeking re-election, of making an anti-Semitic remark in September 2018.

The city is currently investigating the accusation, which can only come down to he said/she said, as the accused has denied ever making such a remark and the accuser has told me he has no proof that this ever occurred.

There's a great deal of ugliness these days in politics, be it national, state or even the most local of government at the neighborhood council level.

Having interviewed those involved in the Silver Lake situation, I find it hard to believe the accused said any such thing; at the same time, the accuser told me he is willing to take a lie detector test, which of course will never happen.

I think the entire matter is sad, especially for a neighborhood council that has long been one of the best functioning in the city of Los Angeles.

I attended the SLNC candidate debate Saturday, March 23rd, the location of which, incidentally, was moved at the last minute from the Silver Lake Independent Jewish Community Center after its director said he didn't want any community meetings at the location—especially one having issues with a claim of anti-Semitism—in the wake of the October 2018 Pittsburgh synagogue shooting and the massacre of 50 Muslims on March 15, 2019 in Christchurch, New Zealand.

With that said, the event went on at the St. Francis of Assisi Church and School.

With so many candidates running, it was hard to get a take on those deserving of a *Los Feliz Ledger* endorsement.

The forum did not provide for a back and forth between opposing candidates, even on the question of "civility" of the current board, and many of the one-minute responses given by candidates on such issues as the future of the Silver Lake Reservoir, homelessness and the local business economy, were not in depth or long enough to even judge.

Still, in my view, there were a handful of candidates—not a complete slate—that did

distinguish themselves at the debate, including: Anne-Marie Johnson, Cameron Bard, Ryan Moore, Scott Plante and Lorraine Getz running for At-Large seats; Anthony Crump running for Region 3; and David Valdez running for Region 5.

No matter which candidates win in the April 6th election, we'd like to see the ugly name-calling, mudslinging, incendiary Facebook Posts and anonymous emails stopped so this council can do the good work it does: make life more enjoyable and liveable in Silver Lake.

On another topic, but one I hope the SLNC tackles if they can: the afternoon drive on Sunset Boulevard from the Sunset Junction all the way to Alvarado Street in Echo Park is an absolute crawl by car every single day.

I can only imagine what this stretch of Silver Lake is going to be like when numerous new residential buildings in the immediate and adjacent area, currently in the pipeline, start opening up. Please don't say the new residents in these buildings can just take the Metro. There is none in the area.

# Los Feliz Ledger

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- The Village Bakery and Café**  
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## Corrections & Amplifications

In our March 2019 story "As City Hall Looks to Purge Rats Some Hope to Ban Rat Poison," we incorrectly indicated owls, foxes, coyotes and squirrels had all been found dead in Griffith Park. While Friends of Griffith Park funded testing on all of those animals, some were found in other Los Angeles County wilderness areas or in the residential areas surrounding Griffith Park. We regret the error.

## Egg-citing Easter Outings

Compiled by Michael Darling, Ledger Contributing Writer

Easter is Sunday, April 21st, which means that Peter Cottontail is currently hopping down the bunny trail to Los Angeles. Here are some fun ways to celebrate the season.

**BIG BUNNY WEEKENDS**

As part of their monthlong Spring Fling event, the L.A. Zoo hosts Big Bunny Weekends, during which guests can meet the Big Bunny and take part in bunny ear crafts. Additionally, enjoy other fun Spring Fling activities like roaming bee and butterfly puppets, the Amazing Monarchs aerialist show and special animal feedings. Included with zoo admission. **L.A. Zoo**, April 13th through 14th and April 19th through 21st, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. 5337 Zoo Dr. Information: (323) 644-4200, lazoo.org

**10TH ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT FOR DOGS**

Wag Hotels hosts this atypical Easter egg hunt. Let your four-legged friend explore Griffith Park's park center as they seek out over a thousand eggs filled with treats and prizes. Local vendors will be on hand to

show off their wares. Tickets are \$10, dogs and children under 12 get in free. **Park Center, Griffith Park**, Sat. April 6th, 12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m., 4670 Crystal Springs Dr. Information: [waghotels.com/hollywood](http://waghotels.com/hollywood)

**PERSHING SQUARE SPRING EGG HUNT**

Get your hunt on early at this community event downtown. In addition to an appearance by the Spring Bunny, there will be face painting, children's entertainers and jumpers. Bring your own basket and bags to collect eggs. There will be three separate sessions for children under age four, five to seven years old, and eight to ten years old. Free. **Pershing Square**, Sat. April 13th, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. 532 S Olive St. Information: [laparks.org/pershingsquare](http://laparks.org/pershingsquare)

**Blessing Of The Animals**

Take part in an 89-year Los Angeles tradition by attending Olvera Street's Blessing Of The Animals. Inspired by similar acts by 4th century saint San Antonio de Abad, Archbishop José Horacio Gómez will personally bless all pets



in attendance. Additionally, a procession of festively dressed animals will parade through the plaza. Free. **El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument at Olvera Street**, Sat. April 20th, 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. Information: [olveraevents.com](http://olveraevents.com)

**EASTERFEST**

Now in its eleventh year, this massive egg hunt hosted by the New City Church of Los Angeles will feature 20,000 plastic eggs scattered around Grand Hope Park. The event will also feature face painting, games, bounce houses, storybook readings and food vendors. Tickets are \$6 per person or \$30 per family (up to 7 people). Kids two and under are free. **Grand Hope Park**, Sun. April 21st, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. 919 Grand Ave. Information: [newcitychurchla.com/easterfest](http://newcitychurchla.com/easterfest)

## April Neighborhood Council Meetings

**ATWATER VILLAGE**

**Governing Board**  
April 11th at 7 p.m.  
Christ's Church  
3852 Edenhurst Ave.

**Election**  
April 6th – 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Atwater Village Public Library  
3379 Glendale Blvd.

**EAST HOLLYWOOD**

**Governing Board**  
April 15th at 6:30 p.m.  
Location TBD,  
check [easthollywood.net](http://easthollywood.net)

**Election**  
March 31st – 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Armenian Cultural Foundation  
1559 N. Kenmore Ave.

**ECHO PARK**

**Governing Board**  
April 26th at 7 p.m.  
Echo Park United Methodist Church  
1226 N Alvarado St.

**Election**  
April 6th – 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Edendale Library  
2011 W Sunset Blvd.

**Hollywood Hills West**

**Governing Board**  
April 17th at 6 p.m.  
Will and Ariel Durant Library  
7140 Sunset Blvd.

**Election**  
March 31st – 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Will and Ariel Durant Library  
7140 Sunset Blvd.

**LOS FELIZ**

**Governing Board**  
April 16th at 7 p.m.  
Elysian Masonic Lodge  
1900 N Vermont Ave.

**Election**  
April 6th – 2 p.m. to 9 p.m.  
Elysian Masonic Lodge  
1900 N Vermont Ave.

**SILVER LAKE**

**Governing Board**  
April 3rd at 7 p.m.  
Ivanhoe Elementary School  
2828 Herkimer St.

**Election**  
April 6th from noon to 6 p.m.  
St. Francis of Assisi  
1523 Golden Gate Ave.

**SQUATTERS** *from page 1*

"Today there was over an hour of fighting on that property," he said at the meeting. "I've been woken up at least five times a night by fighting and screaming."

According to Scott Roberts, who manages the apartment building, while Dynamic has put up fencing on the street-facing sides of their property, they have neglected to secure the shared alley, despite multiple requests.

"They've done the bare minimum," said Roberts. "I had to call [the city's department of] building and safety to get them to put a fence up."

The LFNC unanimously voted to send letters to both Dynamic and Los Angeles City Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell, in whose council district the property sits, requesting the city intervene and that the developer honor an earlier promise to hire a security service to patrol the location—a promise the property's neighbors claim the developer has not fulfilled.

But according to Aaron Green, president of Afriat—a consulting group working with Dynamic on the Franklin and Western project—the developer has been "very responsive" to complaints and has addressed issues at the site "in as timely and efficient a manner as possible," including hiring a private security firm, which he said began patrolling March 18th.

It's not somebody who sits in a chair for 24 hours a day at the site," Green said in an interview. "The company will send a security guard to visit the site three or four times a day" at inconsistent times, so trespassers can not predict the guards' arrival.

According to Green, security has removed at least one trespasser from the property since patrols began, and he said their presence so far seems to have reduced break-ins.

"Since security started ... the problems [at the site] have been reduced or eliminated," said Green. "That security will continue until the buildings are demolished," which he said will happen in April if all goes according to plan.

Additionally, he said, the developer has taken several other measures to address complaints at the site, which they outlined in a March 19th letter to the LFNC, sent shortly before that evening's meeting.

Those measures include "bringing cleanup crews to the site more than a half-dozen times to clean up the trash left by squatters, clear out debris" and remove graffiti; removing cars abandoned on the site by

the previous property owner; enlisting police to help clear out squatters; and installing new locks on the perimeter fencing multiple times, "as recently as March 15th," according to the letter.

Neighbors, meanwhile, insist Dynamic's response to issues has been sluggish, requesting that local Councilmember O'Farrell do more to expedite cleanups and asking for 24-hour security at the site.

But according to O'Farrell Field Deputy George Hakopiants, there is only so much the councilmember can do.

"If security is out there ... they've technically gone above and beyond," Hakopiants said at the LFNC meeting. "There is no mechanism [for the city] to force them to have on-site security."

According to Hakopiants, the council office has reached out to Dynamic several times and the city has issued multiple orders to address reported hazards. Each time, he said, the developer has complied, albeit slowly.

"They seem to correct the issue just before they get cited," Hakopiants said. "... They do [clean the property], they just don't do it quickly enough."

Ultimately, Hakopiants said, the developer seems to be trying to address the issues.

"They've actually gone out and boarded up the site several times," he said, but "you have a dedicated group of people who insist on being there."

But LFNC Treasurer Nello DiGiandomenico suggested O'Farrell was being too lenient on the developer, whose CEO, president and executive vice president have donated a combined \$4,000 to O'Farrell since 2017, when they began seeking approval for the Franklin and Western project, according to city campaign finance records.

"I wonder how close of a relationship Mitch O'Farrell has with Dynamic," he said.

Hakopiants bristled at the implication and said the councilmember never had and never would give preferential treatment to friends or donors.

"I don't know of any relationship, but even if there was one, that wouldn't excuse [Dynamic] from anything," he said.

For his part, Afriat's Green said the notion that Dynamic had curried special favor with the councilmember was absurd.

"The implication that any local official is for sale for a couple of campaign contributions is offensive ... and it's not reflective of the way the world works," said Green.

[STREET LEVEL]  
**People Need Some Counseling on Neighborhood Councils**

By Michael Darling, Ledger Columnist

Elections for our local neighborhood councils are April 6th. Have you heard of neighborhood councils? What do you think they do? Will you be voting on April 6th?



"I don't know much about it, to be honest. I think it's related to the mayor and community issues." - **James D., outside Sumi's on Vermont Avenue.**



"I know they exist, not 100% on what they do. I will probably decide to vote based on what issues come up as I research it." - **Jesse A., outside the Skylight Books Annex on Vermont Avenue.**



"Yes, I plan on voting. Neighborhood Councils deal with neighborhood issues like sidewalk repairs, zoning and all that." - **Matthew B., outside Atrium on Vermont Avenue.**



"No, but I think they probably deal with education, the maintenance of the area and business issues." - **Jeffrey B., outside Atrium on Vermont Avenue.**



"I guess it has to do with life within the neighborhoods; planning events, taking care of streets." - **Agnes B., outside the Skylight Books Annex on Vermont Avenue.**



"Neighborhood Councils, I guess they provide equal opportunities for everyone, help schools, make sure neighborhoods are clean plus probably distribute newsletters and stuff." - **Jardé M., outside Skylight Books on Vermont Avenue.**



"I'm kind of familiar and usually vote, but I just moved to Koreatown and I'm not sure when their election is." - **Luna L., outside Atrium on Vermont Avenue.**



"I'm generally familiar with Neighborhood Councils. I just moved to this area a couple

months ago, but I'm not sure if I'm aware enough of the issues or if I'm able to vote this year." - **Steve M., outside the Skylight Books Annex on Vermont Avenue.**



"I'm familiar with Neighborhood Councils and I've attended one or two meetings in the past, but the process seemed too opaque. I want to vote, I vote on everything I can, but I don't know how to judge one candidate versus another." - **Don G., outside Atrium on Vermont Avenue.**



"I know a bit about them because I'm interested in community and local issues. I plan on voting, but there's been very little information about it. It's been poorly publicized." - **Elisa C., outside the Los Feliz Theater on Vermont Avenue.**

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LAUSD from page 1

basically had no name ID," she said.

Goldberg, who taught in Compton Unified School District for 16 years, was endorsed early on by the teachers union, United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA). During the six-day teachers strike in January, Goldberg spoke at many of the rallies UTLA held and joined teachers on the picket lines.

"We were very supportive of the strike, but you never know if it's going to help you or hurt you," she said. "On the whole, I think people became more aware of how underfunded public education is in California."

Repenning also joined teachers on the picket lines and she led the field when it came to fundraising, raising \$287,000, according to campaign finance reports filed with the city Ethics Commission as of February 27th.

Goldberg received about \$200,000 in donations. She was followed by Ortiz, who raised about \$129,000.

Independent expenditure committees, which cannot coordinate with candidates' campaigns, poured nearly \$1.9 million into the race to support or oppose candidates. Repenning also had the most support from this outside spending.

Service Employees International Union (SEIU), Local 99, which represents school district bus drivers, cafeteria workers and other employees, endorsed Repenning and spent about \$730,000 to support her candidacy. Three other committees spent about \$62,000 to support Repenning.

Committees funded by SEIU also spent \$139,000 to oppose Goldberg and about \$37,000 to oppose Ortiz.

UTLA spent \$653,000 to support Goldberg's candidacy.

Repenning said she believed her strong fundraising performance contributed to her campaign's success.

"I think it definitely mattered," she said. "I think, unfortunately, funding really matters in campaigns and having the resources to put mail out to communicate across different types of media, it matters."

Goldberg said in her previous elections, her opponents have consistently raised more money than her.

"This is not a new place for us," she said.

Additionally, Goldberg said she did not believe name recognition alone would get her a seat on the school board.

"We spent a tremendous amount of time meeting people in the community, which is how I've run every election

I've ever been in," she said.

According to Goldberg, 800 volunteers for her campaign walked precincts and called voters, which she said would continue until the May runoff.

"We are not taking this for granted," Goldberg said. "We are going to be out with a huge number of people again."

Repenning said she built a coalition of support through the labor unions that endorsed her, Democratic clubs, the Sierra Club and the politicians who gave her their endorsement like Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, Los Angeles District 4 City Councilmember David Ryu, and State Assemblymember Laura Friedman.

Repenning said she also walked precincts to meet voters.

Looking ahead to the runoff, Repenning said she plans to spend more time in the southern part of District 5, which includes cities in the southeastern portion of Los Angeles County such as Huntington Park, Cudahy and South Gate.

"I want to talk about how we can make our system more fair," she said. "I want to let them know that I'm going to be there and I'm going to provide really strong representation for them, which they have not always had."

Goldberg has campaigned on building support to go to Sacramento and advocate for increased state funding for education. California ranks near the bottom in the nation when it comes to per pupil spending on K-12 education.

She also has said she would support amendments to the state law that governs charter schools.

About one in five Los Angeles students attend charter schools, which are publicly funded, but privately run.

"The goal is not to kill one system or the other," Goldberg said. "The goal is to make one system not undermine the other."

The special election is being closely watched because it could determine the school board's ideological balance following the resignation of Ref Rodriguez, who was convicted of a felony and other charges related to campaign finance violations during his 2015 campaign.

Rodriguez was part of the majority bloc of school boardmembers who have been financially backed by charter school supporters. Since he departed last year, the board has been split on some issues.

Whoever wins the special election will serve the remaining term, which expires in 2020.

[COACHELLA]

2019 Coachella Acts Among Us

By Michael Darling, Ledger Contributing Writer

It's that time of year again, as music lovers head to the desert for the twin weekends of the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival.

Every year sees many local Los Angeles artists performing. Here are 11 local heroes from the Los Feliz, Silver Lake and Echo Park areas playing this year's festival.

FRIDAY (APRIL 12TH & 19TH)

Actor Donald Glover's Grammy winning alter ego **Childish Gambino** is headlining the Friday nights of the festival. Glover has a house in Silver Lake and has recorded there and at other local studios like Hyperion Sound in Atwater Village.

DJ and producer **Diplo** has been a member of groups like Major Lazer, Jack Ü, and LSD in addition to producing songs for the likes of Madonna and Beyonce. In 2016, he purchased a four-story mansion in Beachwood Canyon.

The enigmatic Scottish electronic musician **Sophie Xeon** has made her home in Los Angeles, performing at venues like the Echoplex and Westlake's Teragram Ballroom. A 2017 *Vulture* profile suggests that Sophie frequents an unnamed Italian restaurant in Los Feliz.

Although surf punks **The Frights** are originally from San Diego County, they've got strong eastside bona fides. In 2016, they played Echo Park Rising and since 2015, they've been signed to Silver Lake's Dangerbird Records.

While indie rocker and rapper **Rat Boy** is British, he's started to identify more with Silver Lake. His 2019 album *Internationally Unknown* was released by Silver Lake's Hellcat Records and closes with



the skater anthem "Silverlake."

SATURDAY (APRIL 13TH & 20TH)

Around 2013, Cleveland born rapper **Kid Cudi**, known for his work with Kanye West and Travis Scott, moved to Los Feliz. At press time, set times haven't been announced, but Cudi's placement on the Coachella poster suggests a post-sundown slot, which will be perfect for his moody, low fi hip-hop.

Nearly 30 years into their career, **Weezer** experienced an unexpected cultural relevance last year with their cover of Toto's 1981 hit "Africa." This year, they've released two self-titled records, an all-covers record nicknamed "The Teal Album" and an album of originals referred to as "The Black Album." Weezer frontman Rivers Cuomo has said the writing process for "The Black Album" was inspired by new hangouts in Echo Park and Silver Lake.

The 27-year-old prince of slacker rock **Mac DeMarco** makes his home in Silver Lake. At Coachella, he'll likely

preview material from his next record, *Here Comes The Cowboy*, due out May 10th.

Multi-instrumental rocker **Ty Segall** lives in Highland Park, but spends a lot of time around Silver Lake and Echo Park. He's been known to perform surprise shows at the Echoplex, Satellite and Silverlake Lounge with his many different bands. At Coachella, he'll be joined by the band **White Fence**, whose leader Tim Presley lives in Echo Park.

**Steady Holiday** is the indie pop alter ego for singer-songwriter Dre Babinski. Both of Babinski's Steady Holiday records were recorded at Historic Filipinotown's Sargent Records.

SUNDAY (APRIL 14TH & 21ST)

Echo Park based hip-hop and R&B phenom **Lizzo** has worked with legends like Prince and Missy Elliott. Her set of upbeat party starters like "Good As Hell," "Boys" and "Juice" will keep Coachella attendees in the festival spirit as the weekend winds down.

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NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL ELECTION GUIDE



By Erin Hickey Pinheiro, Ledger Contributing Writer

Four local neighborhood councils will hold governing board elections Saturday, April 6th: Los Feliz, Silver Lake, Atwater Village and Echo Park.

Anyone who lives, works, owns property or belongs to a community group in one of those areas can vote in the corresponding neighborhood council election.

Three of the four councils require no documentation to vote, though voters will be asked to provide their address or the address of the business or community center in which they hold a stake.

Echo Park requires documentation—such as a driver's license, student ID, pay stub or piece of mail—to vote for district candidates, who represent specific areas of the neighborhood, though no documentation is required to vote for at-large candidates, who represent the area as a whole.

Find the times and locations of each election, as well as brief profiles of the candidates running below:

**LOS FELIZ NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

The Los Feliz Neighborhood Council (LFNC) election will take place at the Elysian Masonic Lodge, located at 1900 No. Vermont Ave., from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m.

A total of 33 candidates are running for 10 district seats across five districts. There are no vacant at-large or special interest seats this election cycle.

**DISTRICT A**

Running for District A, which covers the Los Feliz Hills, are Antonio Canzona, Rob Johnsen, Janet Kim and Hugo Soto.

Canzona is a property manager who has lived in Los Feliz for 25 years.

He said he is running to improve "the structure of the neighborhood council and its effectiveness."

Johnsen, an 11-year resident of the Los Feliz area, is a real estate investor and business consultant.

"My biggest issue is public safety," he said.

A former scientist who now owns a small business, Kim was born and raised in Los Feliz.

She previously served on the board as an appointed District B representative and as the chair of the council's Ad-Hoc Committee on Homelessness, but does not currently hold a board position.

Kim has also served on the Education, Cultural Affairs, Public Health and Safety and Transportation and Mobility committees, but it was the issue of homelessness that first drew her to the neighborhood council, after she said she noticed a "disconnect between our elected officials and our neighbors, [both] housed and unhoused."

"We have some of the wealthiest people in the city living in Los Feliz, yet we also have a shocking number of students in our local schools whose families cannot afford adequate nutrition, basic school supplies, diapers and mental hygiene products," said Kim.

Spurred by her concern for the neighborhood's homeless population, Kim helped found a volunteer-run nonprofit organization called the SELAH Neighborhood Homeless Coalition—an acronym for the Silver Lake, Echo Park, Los Feliz, Atwater and Hollywood neighborhoods it represents.

"I believe that the neighborhood council has a duty to advocate for more homelessness resources for our area and to support all local efforts involved in assisting people experiencing homelessness, as well as low income families and individuals on the brink of homelessness," Kim said.

Environmental issues are the biggest concern for Soto, a 3-year Los Feliz resident who works as an organizer for the hotel workers' union, and would

like to open up more recreational space in the neighborhood.

According to Soto, he hopes to use his 13 years of union organizing experience to get people involved in the community.

"I have an organizer's perspective on how to solve issues, and I intend to bring that to the neighborhood council," he said.

Soto has never served on the LFNC or any of its committees, but said he often attends the Recreation Committee as a non-voting member.

**DISTRICT B**

In Los Feliz Square's District B, incumbent and current LFNC President Jon Deutsch, Kristen Ferris, Christian Filippella, Michael Gordon, Daniel Grauerholz, incumbent Cat Kim, Victoria Kraus, Faye Orlove, Dorian Parisi and Joshua Lee Williams are running.

A 12-year Los Feliz resident, Deutsch recently switched careers from film to working for a homeless services agency.

According to Deutsch, he is passionate about improving street safety for both drivers and pedestrians, maintaining the neighborhood's stock of rent controlled apartments and bringing neighbors together through community action.

"The neighborhood issues I most care about are improving street safety for both drivers and pedestrians, maintaining our stock of rent-stabilized properties and ... bringing neighbors together to make Los Feliz a more vibrant place to live and work," said Deutsch.

If re-elected, Deutsch said, he will work to increase the neighborhood council's transparency and encourage participation of non-elected committee members.

Filippella, a filmmaker who has lived in Los Feliz since 2006, said he is running to address environmental, safety and traffic issues, among others.

He said he hopes to reduce pollution, increase recycling and promote the use of electric and alternative energies in the neighborhood.

Additionally, he said, he would like to improve local roads, reduce traffic, support local artists and events and bring more sports facilities to the area.

A stock photographer who has lived in the area for 39 years, Gordon is running on a platform calling for the removal of Hollywood from the city of Los Angeles.

"Hollywood should be its own separate city," he said. "All of the other issues that exist in this area are related to the fact that it is dysfunctional mainly because the city of Los Angeles is too large politically ... for the people here to hold it accountable."

Like her sister, District A candidate Janet Kim, small business owner Cat Kim was born and raised in Los Feliz. She moved back to the neighborhood after a stint in New York, where she worked in public relations and event management.

Kim currently represents District B on the board, serves as the LFNC's Social Media Manager and Homelessness Liaison and is a member of the council's Cultural Affairs, Education, Executive, Outreach and Public Safety committees.

She said she hopes to increase outreach to LFNC constituents.

"It's important to me that the community knows what's going on in the neighborhood and the neighborhood council works for them," said Kim, who organized the council's first hygiene kit drive after receiving feedback from local middle and high schools that they had a significant shortage of menstrual hygiene products.

According to Kim, she has also been able to leverage her public relations experience to increase the LFNC's social media presence, doubling

the organization's Facebook followers and increasing their Instagram following by more than threefold.

"Our branding and social media have become the model for many other neighborhood councils," she said.

Kraus, a grant writer and strategy consultant for nonprofits, has lived in Los Feliz since 2011.

She is a member of the LFNC's Planning and Land Use Management Committee, and plans to join its Transportation and Public Health and Safety committees as well.

According to Kraus, public health and safety are the issues she cares most about, as she believes they intersect with most other issues in the neighborhood, including housing, sidewalk and street safety, homelessness, housing and public transportation, among others.

Five-year Los Feliz resident Orlove owns a nonprofit arts space in the neighborhood called Junior High.

Orlove said she hopes to bring more communication to the LFNC.

"I think there are ways to utilize existing platforms to keep the community engaged, unified and up to date," she said.

Ferris, Grauerholz, Parisi and Williams did not respond to interview requests.

**DISTRICT C**

Dorothy Caronna, James Cucinotta, Michael J. Jury, Syama Meagher, Josh Nuni, Karen Schwartzman and Lisa Timmons are running for District C, which covers Los Feliz Village.

A 2-year Los Feliz resident, Caronna works in administration. She said she is passionate about the issues of homelessness and housing.

Meagher owns a Los Feliz-based retail marketing agency called Scaling Retail and a women's clothing brand called Rhode. She has lived in the neighborhood since 2013.

She said she plans to leverage her experience working with various business improvement districts and city development offices to help small businesses in the neighborhood, which she said, "need community support to continue to thrive."

Additionally, Meagher said, "I am passionate about finding proactive solutions for our homeless community and am confident that our transitional homeless housing project [proposed in February by Los Angeles City Councilmember David Ryu for Riverside Drive in Griffith Park, near the Mulholland Fountain] will become a citywide example for other neighborhoods to replicate."

According to Meagher, she believes that small changes can make a big impact, and supports installing additional crosswalks, improving stop sign placement and "installing doggy waste stations to keep our neighborhood clean."

A native Angeleno who recently moved to Los Feliz, Nuni spent many years enjoying the neighborhood as a visitor before he moved to the area.

"I went to law school on the East Coast, and upon returning home, I knew there was nowhere I'd rather live," he said.

Nuni, a civil rights lawyer, said the city's housing crisis is what prompted him to run.

"For me, this is a moral issue, and I believe the Los Feliz community can set a leadership example for the rest of the city by fighting for and welcoming affordable and bridge housing solutions that will help house our homeless neighbors," he said.

Nuni regularly attends meetings for the LFNC's Environmental Affairs, Transportation and Planning and Land Use Committees.

He has worked with the Environmental Affairs Committee to try and bring solar panels to the Los Feliz Branch Library.

Timmons, an aspiring comedy TV

writer, has lived in Los Feliz for nearly six years.

"This is my first foray into participation with the neighborhood council, and I am excited to get to know the ins and outs of the LFNC and its committees," she said.

Timmons is running on a pro-rent control platform.

Cucinotta, Jury and Schwartzman did not respond to interview requests.

**DISTRICT D**

For the Los Feliz Knolls' District D, Charlie Collins, Bryant B. Crouse, John Dal Santo, Joanna Lamb Looby, Justin Lane, incumbent Dan McNamara, Matthew C. Militello, Robert Nichols and Tom Pike are running.

Collins, an entrepreneur with two Los Feliz-based businesses—a promotions and marketing company and a line of American-made men's accessories—has lived in the area for roughly 20 years.

Like many, Collins was driven to run for a board seat to help address the issue of homelessness in the area.

"I have a plan to connect many of the active [homeless outreach] agencies and to fine tune outreach in our

community with a model I believe can work across the city," he said.

Collins is a regular attendee of the LFNC's Public Health and Safety Committee meetings, and of its Ad-Hoc Committee on Homelessness.

A business consultant and 35-year resident of Los Feliz, Crouse was one of the original board members of the Franklin Hills Residents Assoc. He also served as its vice president.

According to Crouse, his consulting experience has made him an expert in organization, management and analysis, and he hopes to use those skills on the neighborhood council to "bring people together and come up with solutions that are best for the neighborhood and best for most of the people."

"I'm passionate about a number of issues," said Crouse, but "one of them is traffic ... It's gotten increasingly difficult to drive [in the neighborhood], particularly with Waze. Every day from four o'clock on, there's a 40-car backup on Rowena [Avenue]."

A writer and producer who has called Los Feliz home for the past 13 years, Lane is a member of the LFNC's Recreation and Outreach committees.

see ELECTION page 7



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ELECTION from page 6

"The number one priority for me is increasing community engagement and empowering people to interact with local government," said Lane. "I am also very passionate about ensuring opportunities in the community across the board. It is important that as the neighborhood changes, which ours rapidly does, we don't exclude seniors, low income families, or anyone else for that matter from what Los Feliz has to offer."

As for issues specific to District D, Lane said, he is concerned about traffic and safety issues near John Marshall High School, and anticipates a great deal of discussion around opening the Rowena Reservoir.

Seven-year Los Feliz resident McNamara works as a production manager and an audio, video and lighting technician.

He is the LFNC's Vice President, chairs its Outreach and Rules & Elections committees and sits on its Executive Committee. Housing is the issue he cares most about.

"I believe that housing is a human right," said McNamara. "As such, I am an advocate for tenant rights. I fight for policies, such as an expansion of rent control, that will provide stability for Los Feliz renters. I push back against developers who wish to demolish existing rent stabilized apartments and pressure others to include designated low income units in their projects."

Additionally, he said, he wants the city to implement a vacancy tax, a guaranteed right to counsel for tenants and to take "comprehensive action" to address the homelessness crisis.

A nine-year Los Feliz resident and film history professor, Nichols' platform is succinct: "No one should have to live on the street."

According to Nichols, he has been a member of several LFNC committees, though he did not respond to a request to specify which ones.

Pike is a social media marketer, currently working for Los Angeles City Councilmember Loraine Lundquist.

He has lived in Los Feliz for seven years and is most concerned about environmental issues.

"Stopping catastrophic climate change is going to take action at every level, including neighborhoods," said Pike. "My platform is practical: fit the [Hillhurst Avenue] library with solar panels, add bike lanes and open up new green spaces so that people do not have to drive to get to parks."

According to Pike, he has written four Community Impact Statements as a member of the LFNC's Environmental Affairs and Public Works & Beautification committees, all of which related to environmental issues and were unanimously approved by the board.

One such statement "called for the city to shut down three obsolete, dirty gas-fired power plants, which the city has now done," Pike said. "I do not believe my job as a board member would end with issuing resolutions. I will work to make sure they actually have real world impact."

Dal Santo and Lamb Looby did not respond to interview requests.

**DISTRICT E**

Incumbents Siobhan Burke and Danny Cohen and Kyle Gaan are running for District E, which covers Franklin Hills.

Burke was appointed to her District E seat in 2018. An architect and 10-year resident of Los Feliz, Burke serves on the Transportation and Public Works and Beautification committees.

"What makes my candidacy unique is my professional background," said Burke, who said she believes her design and planning background give her a unique perspective on many neighborhood issues. "I do a lot of work in the public sector and every time I'm working on a streetscape project or a sustainability project ... I go home thinking, 'Why am I not doing this for my own neighborhood?'"

Additionally, she said, she has

used her community outreach expertise to help the council reach more of its constituents when looking for input on projects.

According to Burke, it was the issue of safety on Hyperion Avenue—where a pedestrian was recently killed in a hit and run accident—that first inspired her to join the LFNC.

"So many opportunities could arise if we made that a better street," said Burke. For example, she said, "There are a lot of students out there that get driven to school when they could very easily walk if there were a safer environment to do so."

Also a street safety advocate and current boardmember, Cohen has lived in Los Feliz for nine years and "can't imagine living anywhere else."

A stay-at-home dad who serves as the council's webmaster and co-chairs its Transportation Committee, Cohen has represented District E on the board since 2015.

"My work on the neighborhood council ... has been highly focused on making it safer for everyone—cars, bikes, walkers, students, those young and those old—to use our streets and sidewalks," Cohen said.

Gaan, a research analyst at the Good Food Institute, a nonprofit organization focused on food sustainability, has lived in Los Feliz for two years. Pedestrian safety is his primary concern.

"I think one of the best parts about Los Feliz is its walkability," Gaan said. "However, there are many sidewalks that are in need of repair, and it can sometimes feel unsafe as a pedestrian, especially with car commuters using our neighborhood as a passage to Glendale or Hollywood."

Like Burke and Cohen, Gaan is involved with the LFNC's Transportation & Mobility Committee. He is also a member of its Environmental Affairs Committee, and said he plans to stay involved with both committees whether or not he is elected to the board.

**SILVER LAKE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

Silver Lake stakeholders can vote in the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council (SLNC) election from noon to 6 p.m. at St. Francis of Assisi, 1523 Golden Gate Ave.

A total of 35 candidates are running, and all 21 governing board seats—seven at-large representatives and two for each of seven regions—are up for grabs.

Of those seven regions, regions 1, 6 and 7 surround the reservoir; the majority of regions 2 and 3 are southeast of the reservoir; Region 4 covers much of Sunset Boulevard as well as portions of Silver Lake south and north of it; and Region 5 is in the Sunset Junction area.

Due to the size of Silver Lake and the way its neighborhood council boundaries are drawn, it is recommended that voters check the SLNC's boundary map to determine what region they are in.

Additionally, there are two candidate slates in this election, Silver Lake Together and Silver Lake Progressive. Candidates who are members of those slates are denoted with either (T) or (P), respectively, next to their names. For more information on those slates, visit silverlaketogether.com and silverlakeprogressive.com

**AT-LARGE**

Running to represent Silver Lake as a whole, are Cameron Bard (T), Scott Crawford, incumbent Darius Derakshan (T), Mark Duncan (P), Paul Emmons (P), Nicholas Fox Robbins (P), Lorraine Getz (P), Nora Goudsmit (T), Elaine Harris Roark (P), incumbent and current SLNC co-chair Anne-Marie Johnson (T), Rosa Max, Tony Michaelis (T), Ryan M. Moore, incumbent and current SLNC co-chair Scott Plante (T), Dulce Stein (P) and Liza Temple (T). Bard has lived in Silver Lake since

he moved from New York, where he worked for the state government, to take a position at a solar energy company two years ago.

He is a non-voting member of the SLNC's Green Committee and frequents the council's board meetings.

According to Bard, his primary motivation for running is increasing access to public space and creating more parks and green space in the area.

"I think about L.A. compared to other major cities and one issue that really stands out is the lack of green space per capita here," Bard said. "Local neighborhood leaders should do whatever they can to open up green space ... having spent a career in state and local government, I really value the role that neighborhood councils play."

Derakshan, a native Angeleno and five-year Silver Lake resident is an advertising sales representative for the Los Angeles Times. He was appointed to a board seat in 2018 after co-chairing the SLNC's Homelessness Committee.

Derakshan also co-founded the SELAH Neighborhood Homelessness Coalition—an acronym for Silver Lake, Echo Park, Los Feliz, Atwater and Hollywood—and said he is passionate about advocating for more homeless services in the area and demonstrating to Los Angeles City Council "that this is a ready and willing community" for homeless housing and the like.

"There are no real services here," said Derakshan. "They're all downtown or in Hollywood."

A three-year resident of Silver Lake, who lived in nearby Los Feliz for 10 years prior to that, Duncan is a real estate agent specializing in the Silver Lake area. He serves on the SLNC's Urban Design and Preservation Committee.

"I would like to see the city take better care of Sunset Boulevard, with more street sweeping and litter pickup. The city only street sweeps Sunset Boulevard one day a year [after the Los Angeles Marathon] and I think we can do better," he said. "A clean street will not only be nicer for Silver Lake residents, it will help attract more customers to our local businesses and help keep Silver Lake shops and restaurants vibrant, varied and independent."

A film set medic and fire department reserve medic, Paul Emmons has lived in the neighborhood for more than 30 years.

He co-chairs the SLNC's Transportation and Public Safety Committee and cites traffic safety and road improvements as one of his key issues.

Additionally, he said, he is passionate about making improvements to the area's reservoirs so that they can be used recreationally and wants to preserve the area's uniqueness and ensure all stakeholder's interests are represented.

Native Angeleno Fox Robbins has lived in Silver Lake for 10 years. He is a writer and arts and culture producer and founded the Silver Lake Picture Show—a local outdoor film screening series in the Sunset Triangle.

"Besides maintaining Silver Lake's identity as a place where the creative, LGBTQ and Latinx communities thrive, I care most about rejuvenation the neighborhood council's relationships with the community," he said.

Fox Robbins currently serves on the SLNC's Election Committee.

Getz, a realtor, has lived in Silver Lake for over six years.

She has sat on the board of Silver Lake's Los Angeles Family School and chairs an annual fundraising auction for local Ivanhoe Elementary School.

"One of my main objectives is to support and recognize our community's uniqueness," Getz said. "I would like to highlight and support our independent retailers and restaurants as well as our robust art scene [and] I would like to see events created around supporting our local businesses."

Two-year resident Goudsmit is a clinical psychologist who relocated to Silver Lake from Brooklyn, New York.

"What really got me into wanting to run for neighborhood council had to do with equity and safe streets for community members," she said. "I really think that Silver Lake, like most neighborhoods, has been experiencing a lot of changes in terms of traffic shortcuts."

According to Goudsmit, one of her greatest strengths is her ability to hear all sides of an argument.

"I am a listening first type person," she said. "I really want to under-

stand the community's input."

Harris Roark is a landscape architect who has lived in the neighborhood since 2013. She currently serves on the board of Silver Lake Forward, a nonprofit organization that aims increase public access to the Silver Lake Reservoir.

"I am passionate about many issues facing our neighborhood, ranging from cultural programming to sustainable development," said Harris Roark.

The issue that prompted her to run, however, is the Silver Lake Master Plan, which is currently being updated by the city with the council's input.

"We have an incredible and unique opportunity to shape, beautify and create access to 127 acres of open space in our neighborhood," Harris Roark said.

SLNC Co-Chair Johnson was born and raised in Silver Lake. An actor, Johnson also co-chairs the council's Bylaws & Standing Rules Committee and serves on its Urban Design & Preservation and Executive committees.

According to Johnson, she is most concerned with pedestrian safety—though she said the illegal use of gas leaf blowers is a close second—after noticing an uptick in reckless driving on the area's narrow residential streets over the past few years.

"I walk everywhere, and specifically I walk in Silver Lake," she said. "The driving is just so horrific—it's an embarrassment."

Johnson said she wants more police enforcement to address the issue, even if that means levying a property tax to create revenue for more traffic officers.

"It's going to have to take being ticketed and looked after like children," she said.

Max, a 12-year resident of the area works as a city shepherd—meaning people can hire her to bring a flock of sheep to graze their lawns, rather than mowing them.

According to Max, she believes she is the only homeless candidate running, but her primary concern is promoting the state's Urban Agriculture Incentive Zone, which provides tax incentives to homeowners who plant food crops in their yards.

see ELECTION page 8

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**ELECTION from page 7**

"I want to guide people in how they can better their neighborhoods by using laws that are often ... not taken advantage of," said Max. "Who would your children vote for is my message."

Michaelis has lived in Silver Lake for more than 30 years.

He is a retired hospital administrator, who has co-chaired the council's Transportation & Neighborhood Safety Committee for the past two years and has served as its Budget Representative for the past three.

According to Michaelis, he cares most about improving city services in the neighborhood, "with a focus on traffic safety, street maintenance, parking and public safety."

An independent filmmaker and software engineer who moved to Silver Lake in 2007, Moore is most concerned with tenants' rights.

According to Moore, he is interested in "preserving Silver Lake's diversity and character by aiding tenants in rental disputes, working to repeal [state law] Costa-Hawkins [which prohibits the expansion of rent control] and fighting against the removal of rent controlled units from the market via the Ellis Act [an often abused state law that allows landlords to evict tenants if they wish to exit the rental business] and illegal short-term rentals" such as Airbnb.

SLNC Co-Chair Scott Plante has lived in the area for 10 years. He works as an architect, and also co-chairs the board's Urban Design & Preservation Committee.

He said he cares most about "improving the quality of the built environment [in Silver Lake] while trying to balance the pressures of a need for housing with the downside of how it affects current residents."

Stein is chief curator at Glendale Boulevard's Neutra Institute Museum and Gallery.

She is the SLNC's Art & Culture Committee co-chair, and cites art, culture and community as her areas of greatest interest.

Stein lives in the city of Hawthorne.

An 18-year Silver Lake resident, Temple is a real estate developer who has served on the council's Urban Design & Preservation Committee for the past four years.

According to Temple, she hopes to work with incoming developers to "build responsibly and with consideration to the community" as Silver Lake becomes more dense.

Crawford did not respond to an interview request.

**REGION 1**

Samantha Danner (T) and incumbent Doug Loewy (T) are running unopposed for the two Region 1 seats.

A post-doctoral scholar focused on behavioral sciences and linguistics, Danner recently moved to Silver Lake, but has long spent time in the area as a visitor.

"Living in Silver Lake has always been an aspiration of mine, so I was thrilled to move here," she said.

Danner boasts a great deal of experience addressing issues of homelessness, as a member of SELAH, homeless housing advocacy organization Hollywood 4WRD and the SLNC's Homelessness Committee.

Previously, she sat on the East Hollywood Neighborhood Council's Ad-Hoc Committee on Homelessness and additionally served on that council's governing board when she lived in the area.

"I believe in a compassionate ap-

proach to serving house and unhoused residents of our community, and as a SLNC board member, I pledge to do all in my power to bring more access to services like public bathrooms [and] showers, safe parking, counseling [and] job training and more affordable housing to our neighborhood," said Danner.

Loewy, a 19-year Silver Lake resident, has served on the board since 2016. He formerly co-chaired the board's Transportation & Public Safety Committee.

A healthcare attorney, Loewy cites the Silver Lake Master Plan, street safety and the local dog park as his key areas of interest.

**REGION 2**

Incumbents Douglas A. Reed (T) and Barbara Ringuette (T) are running unopposed for the two Region 2 seats.

Reed, a 28-year Silver Lake resident who works as a construction project manager and also owns Los Feliz's Artisan LA Jewelry, has served on the board since 2018. He also sits on the council's Urban Design & Planning Committee.

"My most passionate issue is to support the artistic nature and architectural heritage that has defined Silver Lake," he said.

A retired Los Angeles County administrator, Ringuette has lived in the neighborhood for 30 years.

She was first elected to the governing board in 2012, co-chaired the Transportation & Public Works Committee for four years, and currently co-chairs the Governmental Affairs Committee. She also sits on the Urban Design and Homelessness committees.

"I hope to find solutions to housing, oversize development and quality of life matters," among other issues, Ringuette said.

**REGION 3**

Seth Copenhaver (P), incumbent Anthony Crump (T) and Ami Werges (T) are running for Region 3.

Copenhaver moved to Silver Lake about a decade ago, but prior to that he lived nearby in Los Feliz.

An online marketer, Copenhaver hopes to address issues of safety and homelessness in Region 3.

"It's not lost on me that these are big issues and not simple to solve," he said.

Additionally, Copenhaver said, he is interested in the process of reworking the Silver Lake Master Plan.

"[The reservoir is] certainly one of the most beautiful parts of not just our community, but Los Angeles in general, and we have an amazing opportunity to do something wonderful here and shape how future generations get to interact with it," he said.

An 11-year resident of Silver Lake, Crump works in public affairs and community relations. He is a current SLNC governing board member and has previously served as its treasurer and co-chair.

According to Crump, he cares most about "quality of life issues for all residents" in Silver Lake.

Werges is a freelance film production manager, who has lived in the area for 11 years.

"The neighborhood issues that I am most passionate about are housing growth, homelessness and traffic congestion," she said.

**REGION 4**

Jennifer Dibs (T) and Ianthe Zevos are running unopposed for Region 4.

Dibs and her wife have lived in Silver Lake for 23 years.

A pet sitter and dog walker, Dibs started her business, Sit Pet Sitting,

15 years ago, and said she hopes to preserve Silver Lake's natural environment and wildlife.

"I want to continue to advocate for the animals and migratory birds that need the reservoir to remain a refuge," she said. "I believe it is important to include them and their needs in the discussions regarding the reservoir complex."

Zevos, a creative director who has lived in Silver Lake since 2007, cites housing and development as her biggest local concerns.

"I'm most passionate about the human cost of our city's housing and development policies," she said. "Policies that seem dry but have enormous everyday consequences for our communities."

**REGION 5**

Jeremy Black (P), Maebe A. Girl (P) and incumbents Bob Lisauskas (T) and David Valdez (T) are running for Region 5.

Black, a senior account director for a startup software company, moved to Silver Lake two years ago. He is a licensed member of the California Bar Assoc., but does not currently practice law.

According to Black, he is most interested in improving public spaces in the area, for example, the Silver Lake dog park.

"I have heard from so many people that they won't take their dogs there because the dogs leave completely filthy," he said. "When it rains, there is no proper drainage leaving huge puddles of mud ... If you go to West Hollywood, they have a great AstroTurf space for dogs and Silver Lake should have something similar."

A professional drag queen and *see ELECTION page 10*

**Cameron Bard for Neighborhood Council Silver Lake for the people.**

**Vote April 6th at St. Francis of Assisi**

"From protecting the Reservoir to promoting sustainability and safe streets for all, I'm running because I believe in empowering strong and healthy communities and I believe in Silver Lake."

— Cameron Bard, At-Large Candidate for SLNC

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# Su Casa

The Real Estate Guide for the Los Feliz Ledger

[REAL ESTATE]

## Local Year-Over-Year Medians Down Across the Board in February, While Some Neighborhoods Saw Month-Over-Month Price Spikes

There were 59 single-family homes sold in our coverage area in February 2019—seven fewer than in January—and 10 condos sold in the area, three fewer than the previous month.

Comparatively, 2,929 homes sold in all of Los Angeles County this February, 52 more than in the previous month, and 1,109 condos sold, 80 more than sold in January.

In the Hollywood Hills' 90068 ZIP code, 21 single-family homes sold, six more than in January. The median price for the area was down however, about 18% month-over-month from January and about 11% year-over-year from February 2018 to \$1.305 million. Condo prices meanwhile, were up. Two con-

dos sold in the area, two fewer than last month, for a median price of \$710,000, about 33% higher than January and 42% higher than last February.

A total of 15 single-family homes sold in the 90039 ZIP code, which includes parts of Silver Lake, Los Feliz and Atwater Village—one fewer than sold in January—for a median price of \$1.1 million, about 33% higher than January and 9% lower than last February. Three condos sold in the area for a median of \$707,000, a roughly 10% hike from last year. No condos sold in the area the previous month.

Meanwhile, 13 homes sold in Silver Lake/Echo Park's 90026 ZIP in February, compared with 17 the previous month. The medi-

an price for the area was up about 2% from January, but down 29% from the previous year to \$800,000. One condo sold in the area for \$715,000, about 19% above the previous February's median. No condos sold in the area the month prior.

Los Feliz had 10 home sales in February in its 90027 ZIP code, four more than in January. The median price for those homes was \$1.903 million, about 27% higher than in January, but about 9% below the previous February's median. Four condos sold in the same area—one more than in the previous month—for a median price of \$637,000, about 27% higher than January's median, and 37% higher than last



This 1955 2-bedroom, 2-bath, 1,472-square-foot home in the Franklin Hills area of Los Feliz sold in March for \$1.5 million. The home, located at 3927 Melbourne Ave. has sunset views and an original indoor/outdoor shower.

year at the same time.

Countywide, the median price for a single-family home sold this February was \$615,000, about 3% above January's median, and a tenth

of a percent above last year's median. The median price for a condo in Los Angeles County was \$505,000, 1% below January, and about 2% above last year's median.

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THE KOSTREY COLLECTION



★ NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL ELECTION GUIDE ★

ELECTION from page 8

show producer, Girl has lived in Silver Lake for more than five years, and has attended multiple SLNC board and committee meetings.

"I am most passionate about LGBT issues and want to ensure Silver Lake remains a safe and welcoming neighborhood for people of all backgrounds," said Girl. "I am also passionate about homelessness issues in our community."

Current board member and co-chair of the council's Green Committee Lisauskas has lived in Silver Lake for 10 years.

He additionally sits on the SLNC Urban Design & Preservation committee and serves as the SLNC Resilience Liaison, reporting to the city on issues of public health and disaster preparedness.

"I am most passionate about a more sustainable neighborhood," Lisauskas said. "Housing and density in the right places, affordability, green walkable streets, increasing transportation options and a resilience to drought and climate change."

A 10-year Silver Lake resident, Valdez works in management at NBCUniversal. He was appointed to the SLNC to fill a vacancy in 2018 and recently ran for a vacant seat on the Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education.

Valdez, who additionally co-chairs the SLNC's Government Affairs Committee, said he is most passionate about issues of homelessness, affordable housing, street safety, street repairs and solving parking challenges in the neighborhood.

REGION 6

Lena Najerian Kaderali (P) and incumbents Taryn Poole (T) and Betsy

Smith Isroelit (T) are running for Region 6.

Najerian Kaderali works in regulatory compliance, but also has a master's degree in Library and Information Sciences.

The two-year Silver Lake resident cites street safety as her biggest concern and is involved with a local pro-Rowena Road Diet organization called Keep Rowena Safe.

A 26-year resident of Silver Lake, Poole is the founder and CEO of a niche advertising agency. She has served on the SLNC as a Region 6 representative for the past three years.

Additionally, she serves on the SLNC's Outreach Committee, where she is responsible for the council's Facebook advertising. She is also the council's Animal Liaison to the city.

"I will always advocate for the delicate balance of our lovely and unique shared habitat and will continue to insist that the powers that be answer to us, the Community of Silver Lake, about the importance of protecting the [area's] wildlife, migratory birds, trees and water for our future generations," said Poole.

Smith Isroelit, who currently serves as the council's secretary, has lived in Silver Lake for over 20 years.

A marketing and communications professional, Smith Isroelit also co-chairs the SLNC Outreach Committee and edits its bi-weekly newsletter.

According to Smith Isroelit, she is passionate about increasing participation in the neighborhood council and its committees and ensuring that all Silver Lake residents have a say in creating a new master plan for the Silver Lake Reservoirs.

"People who live in Silver Lake deserve to be deeply involved in the see ELECTION page 28

[OUR BREAD AND BUTTER]

Plant Systems: New Area Code But Still Great Design

By Kimberly Gomez, Ledger Columnist

Plant Systems, a long-time fixture in Los Feliz and Silver Lake has changed the surrounding neighborhood's characteristic and contoured landscape, terrace by terrace.

After 30 years in their Hyperion Boulevard location, they have sold the property and moved to Valley Glen. Despite the new area code—(747)—their landscape design and installation business is still the same as it ever was.

Past visitors to the verdant nursery who remember being greeted by Charlie, the 40-year-old macaw, will be pleased to know he is enjoying his new digs on the other side of the hill.

Clients can still leave a message on an old-school answering machine. And no matter the size of the job, Plant Systems remains focused on creating great outdoor experiences for property owners.

Bob Newman, co-owner of Plant Systems, credits their decades of success to listening to the needs of the clients.

"We go in initially to look at the site, the soil ... whether it's sunny or shady, and look at

drainage issues, to get a sense of what direction to go," he said. "We encourage [our clients] be as involved as they want to be."

Those clients, Newman noted, often take inspiration from the neighborhood and there's scarcely a street in the area that doesn't reflect Plant Systems' influence.

Wind up any road in Silver Lake and Los Feliz and you're likely to come across some of their work.

They've cultivated the land at John Lautner's famed Silvertop and have designed and maintained the landscaping of Los Angeles's prominent mid-century architects such as Eames, Schindler, Neutra and Williams since 1985.

Newman does much of the design duties, having studied at the Academy of Art in San Francisco, while co-owner Gary Guarino is a licensed contractor who creates the built environments and handles the business end of things.

Lucia Dewey Atwood, who said she first came to know Plant Systems from their work on historical properties,

chose them for her home project in Mar Vista.

"I wanted to keep the mid-century cottage feel and for it to be a part of the neighborhood," said Atwood.

Her large lot had multiple spaces that involved complex grading, raised vegetable beds, and a built environment for entertaining. She said working with Newman has been quite enjoyable.

"What is important to emphasize is Bob is an excellent designer," she said. "I'm very detail-oriented and he embraced it. The quality of their work is exactly what I wanted."

Often considering the big picture, Plants Systems is known for coordinating landscape projects with the architecture of the home, while keeping in mind how the property owner will experience and use the space.

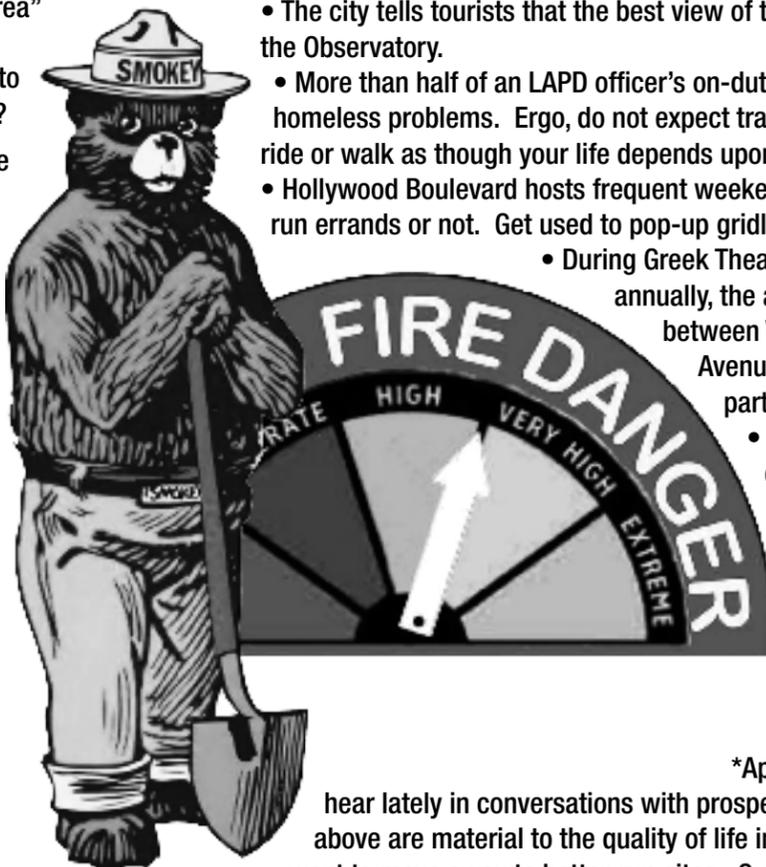
"What they want is what inspires me," said Newman, who said he is most proud of projects that make the clients happy.

Contact Plant Systems at bobnewman1946@aol.com.

What Might a "Los Feliz Area Disclosure" Look Like?\*

Every major real estate brokerage provides "local area" disclosures to inform folks in a transaction of material facts that might affect a buyer's decision to buy. What might a "Los Feliz Area Disclosure" look like?

- Griffith Park is prone to frequent brush fires. Enter the Park at your own risk when Smokey Bear's fire risk gauge points to "HIGH" or above. Keep your home's fire insurance paid.
- No matter how fast you drive, getting from one end of Los Feliz Boulevard to the other can take up to a half hour, especially on weekends.
- The sub-woofer throb of helicopters overhead plays day and night. Tourist helicopters swarm at sunset. Helicopter service to Los Feliz hospital "quiet zones" is especially low and loud.
- Home burglaries happen anytime, whether you use an electronic alarm, or your area has a guard car, or you're at home.
- Motorhomes parked at the curb are always moved in time for weekly street cleaning.
- No hillside street is too narrow, steep or winding for a traffic app to find.
- You will get a parking ticket in Los Feliz whether you deserve one or not.
- Beware of using mailboxes. The Los Feliz post office padlocks its mailboxes after hours for good reason.
- Graffiti mysteriously appears on public surfaces anywhere.
- Trash on streets and sidewalks spontaneously regenerates.
- Backup alarms on city trash trucks wake the neighborhood before our chic flocks of domestic chickens do.
- Don't park at the curb too long. Parts of your vehicle, e.g., catalytic converters, may be missing upon your return.
- The 3 AM visitor on your Ring always wears a hoodie.
- Sidewalks and curbs have not been maintained since Jimmy Carter was president. Step lively!
- That duplex next door on a standard-sized lot could be torn down and redeveloped legally into over 20 apartments with meager parking.



- The city tells tourists that the best view of the HOLLYWOOD sign is from the Observatory.
- More than half of an LAPD officer's on-duty time is spent dealing with homeless problems. Ergo, do not expect traffic law enforcement. Drive, ride or walk as though your life depends upon it--it does.
- Hollywood Boulevard hosts frequent weekend events whether you need to run errands or not. Get used to pop-up gridlock and detours.
- During Greek Theatre season, which lengthens annually, the area north of Cromwell Avenue, between Vermont and Commonwealth Avenues, is blocked off, thanks in part to Uber and Lyft.
- Lamp posts are painted before each L.A. Olympics only, whether they need painting or not.
- Street trees are pruned when their limbs fall.
- Christmas trees dot sidewalks and parkways until Easter.

\*April Fool!? Yes and no. As I hear lately in conversations with prospective sellers, the frustrations above are material to the quality of life in Los Feliz--and a reason some want to move away to better-run cites. Quality of life issues affect the value of our real estate, are man-made and soluble by community action. Demand truth, transparency, accountability and action from our elected leaders to end our city's aggressive apathy toward Los Feliz--before we lose the neighborhood we love. No fooling.



**Richard Stanley**  
 Over 31 years of successful local service  
 Estates Director  
 Architectural and Historic Properties Specialist  
 rstanley@coldwellbanker.com  
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**[KEEN TO BE GREEN]**  
**Pressure on Trader Joe's Results in Plastics Changes**

By Meher McArthur, Ledger Columnist

Trader Joe's has decided to eliminate 1 million pounds of single-use plastic from its stores in 2019.

How did this happen? Several months ago Greenpeace launched a social media campaign (#BreakFreeFromPlastic), urging customers to petition the retailer to reduce its single-use plastics.

On March 4th, Greenpeace announced that because of pressure from over 100,000 petitioners and hundreds of letters and calls to Trader Joe's corporate headquarters, the retailer is improving its practices.

"In mid-2018, we were discussing with our local folks the many ways they could affect change with the campaign," said Greenpeace plastic-free organizer Isabelle Geczy, "and our volunteers immediately asked why we weren't directly looking to get Trader Joe's to be better on the issue, as they're a local, forward-thinking company. It was a no-brainer to our volunteers, and since we have such a strong base in and around Southern California it made perfect sense to us to take the work on in this way."

Now Trader Joe's will stop offering single-use carryout bags nationwide, replace its produce bags with biodegradable and compostable options, replace Styrofoam trays used in packaging and sell more loose produce rather than wrapping it in plastic.

"Trader Joe's decision to phase out some of its most problematic and unnecessary plastic packaging is a direct response to customers pushing them to act," said Kate Melges, also of Greenpeace, who

worked on the campaign. "It's up to all of us to demand that Trader Joe's and other retailers immediately start shifting toward systems of refill and reuse."

This is a big step in the right direction, but according to Greenpeace, Trader Joe's could go further with its plastic reduction, and, of course, there are many more other supermarkets out there. Greenpeace is now calling on all supermarkets to ditch single-use plastics and immediately start adopting more sustainable practices.

Over the next months, the organization plans to mobilize thousands more volunteers, release a hard-hitting report, and use creative action to make sure supermarkets can't ignore the issue.

Though I know we still have far to go, I am keen to focus on good news. I also discovered that Trader Joe's corporate headquarters in Monrovia has a Sustainability Manager. She directed me to their sustainability page and podcast and reassured me that along with the changes they have already made, Trader Joe's is continuing to work with their vendors "to identify sustainable opportunities and take action."

According to the webpage she drafted, "We view this as ongoing work—in fact, never-ending work. As we continue in this endeavor, we are committed to openly sharing information about our progress."

This gives me hope that if enough of us join together to reach out to them and ask them to, corporate entities can change their ways.



**[HOUSE AND HOLMES]**  
**Water Pressured**

By Rob Loos, Ledger Columnist

In the nearly 100 years since our home was built, its basic structure has stayed pretty much the same, but so many other things have changed.

The fireplace no longer burns wood logs, but now it serves mainly as a mantel that supports our LED flat-screen monitor.

Our electricity has been amped up to accommodate an ever-growing list of electric devices, and circuit breakers have replaced the original screw-in fuses.

But the one thing that has remained virtually the same since 1920 is our plumbing. The main line from the street is still a galvanized pipe that connects to our home's copper pipes, which in turn leads to various spigots (or "spicketts" as my grandmother used to call them), that we use for our everyday needs—like washing clothes, dishes and ourselves.

Most times our water pressure is pretty robust, but after an ancient water main ruptured in our street it

seemed like something went wacky with the faucet in our bathroom; it lost almost all its pressure.

The bathroom has the standard 1920's pedestal sink setup with hot and cold knobs and a high-necked pipe in the center, but what used to be a gusher of water has transformed into a dribble.

This makes washing our hands, brushing our teeth and especially shaving hugely challenging. If you don't have enough water pressure to unclog the shaving cream from the razor after each stroke, it feels like you're dragging a giant bowie knife across your face the way cowboys did in those old black and white westerns. Inevitably you end up putting little specks of toilet paper on various nicks on your cheeks and cursing like Yosemite Sam.

I needed to solve the problem before my face looked like the potholes on Los Feliz Boulevard after the big rainstorms—so I tried loosening the knobs under the sink to make sure the water was

flowing. The valves were wide open, but the water pressure was still trickling like the L.A. River in August.

I quickly ran out of problem-solving ideas, so I did what I always do: I called my amazing contractor friend Dave.

He was working on a plumbing problem for one of his Bel-Air clients. Apparently, their backyard fountain wasn't "dancing" correctly to its musical soundtrack and light show.

I explained my problem and Dave asked, "Have you checked your aerator?" I explained that I had no idea what he was talking about.

Then he told me to unscrew the top of the faucet spout. I removed a covering that housed the broken aerator, which is a small filter that regulates the water flow.

Dave told me that the ruptured pipe in the street was just a coincidence and he guided me to the hardware store to spend a few bucks on a new aerator.

Now my water pressure is forceful and my shave is smooth, which once again goes to prove that: "If I can't figure it out—and I know that I can't—my friend Dave can."

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**In Case You Missed It**

A lot happened in March that didn't make it to the print edition due to space limitations, including stories on two violent crimes at the Los Feliz Metro Red Line Station, a non-fatal shooting in front of a Silver Lake bar, a bill to add Griffith Park and parts of the Los Angeles River to the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area and the local roots of India's Oscar-winning documentary short. For more on these and other stories you may have missed, visit [losfelizledger.com](http://losfelizledger.com)

# Cool Market

# Calls For Hot Agents

By Michael Nourmand

**P**olitics and the economy are about as unpredictable as it gets right now, and the easy-sell days of the real estate market have faded. Given the challenging climate, this is no time for homeowners to take a chance on an unknown agent. Your yoga friend with a new real estate license? Maybe not the best choice. Ditto the multi-hyphenate who just added real estate to a colorful list of career attempts.

In a transitioning market like this one, an experienced and resourceful broker who knows how to adapt strategies to the current conditions is key to getting your house sold. Just as crucial is the backing of a robust and supportive firm.

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Anyone can sell a house in a hot market, but in days like these an untested agent will be cold comfort. At Nourmand & Associates we think our clients deserve the best, and we deliver. Simple as that. Call today and let us prove it.



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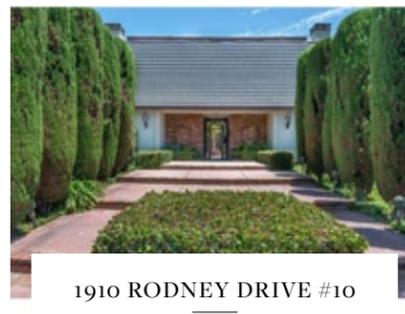
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**962 Maltman Avenue, Silver Lake**  
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2 Bed | 2.5 Bath | 1,600 Sq Ft | 3,241 Sq Ft Lot  
\$1,350,000 | 3362troy.com



“What makes the community special is the diverse mix of architecture and people who comprise it. As an avid runner, cyclist and walker, I’ve walked every step of the neighborhood, meeting many of the wonderful residents. Why I love this neighborhood? It’s peaceful.”



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“Having lived, worked, and played in the neighborhood for over 20 years, we’re happy to be a part of a community with so much character and personality.”



**5163 Franklin Avenue**  
\$1,799,000  
4 Bed | 3 Bath | 2,762 Sq Ft  
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“Living and working for 18 years  
in our great neighborhood.”



**3465 Ben Lomond Place**  
\$1,499,000  
3 Bed | 3 Bath | Pool | Finished Garage

“This is my neighborhood. I live it,  
breathe it, hike it every day, walk  
to the Village and have been for 21  
years. I am so passionate about this  
area and everything it has to offer.  
This is my home.”



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The Hollywood Hills

# COMPASS

[EDITORIAL]

## Why Good People Get Evicted

By Donna Barstow

Hello, my name is Donna, and I've been evicted. I've lived at 2965 Waverly Drive in Silver Lake, one block east of Los Feliz Boulevard, for over 19 great years. In two weeks, Taylor Equities, our new owner, is throwing me out on the street for no reason at all.

Whether Taylor's actions are ethical is up for debate, but, shockingly, this is perfectly legal in Los Angeles if you don't live in a building with rent control.

According to Tenants Together, a statewide renters' rights organization, recent records show an average of 166,337 unlawful detainer legal cases filed per year over the last three years in California. With an average of 2.9 people per renter household, an estimated 500,000 California tenants face court eviction each year.

Here on Waverly, 19 other tenants also got eviction notices and all the rest got rent raises of several hundred dollars (Taylor never gave an official explanation as to who got which).

Out of the 20 evicted, only two of us went to court—the others gave up early on.

When eviction happens, sometimes people "play

chicken" with their landlord, meaning playing a wait and see game to see if their landlord will go to the expense to sue if they're not packed up by their move out date notice. The stress of playing chicken may be well worth it, however, to save your home.

If you live in what's called a non-RSO building (no rent control), eviction could happen to you too, at any time. Landlords don't need a reason to evict: it's called "no-fault." But you really know why ... he's just not that into you.

Let's talk about the Los Angeles Housing Department. That's where everyone suggests you go right away when there's a landlord problem. But the Housing Department can't help you. They only help renters with rent control. That means the over one million renters who live in non rent controlled buildings have no one to turn to, no resource to even find out their rights.

In fact, since Los Angeles rent control began in 1978, there hasn't been one law to help the unlucky tenants who moved into apartments built after that.

Why so unhelpful? Lawmakers like to point to the Costa-Hawkins state law of

1995, which prohibits cities from starting new rent control for buildings built after that date.

But there's so much other stuff you could do if you cared, Los Angeles! You can give wide protections to tenants, without adding more rent control. Aren't we the smart, progressive city everyone wishes they lived in? This is a complete fail for a quarter of the city.

For instance, two Los Angeles City Councilmembers made half-hearted attempts to introduce new renters' laws in 2017: Gil Cedillo proposed "Just Cause" evictions and Jose Huizar introduced a proposal for no harassment for tenants.

Nothing at all was done on these measures until October of 2018, around when I started to make serious inquiries. If you were a lawmaker and submitted an important measure to help so many people, wouldn't you follow it through? Just a little? It has your name on it!

I guess not. The reason given to me was that the city required a report on how 14 other California cities with rent control had added those (obvious) renters' protections. They gave this homework as-

ignment to the Rent Stabilization Division of the city's Housing Dept. Yes, the analysis is in the hands of rent control, which will not help, and has nothing to do with non-RSO renters.

I called many of those cities myself—took me about a week. But, it's taken the city department a year to hand their report over to the Mayor and the City Council.

In January, finally, Huizar's anti-harassment ordinance got a little bump and the report moved on to a Los Angeles City Council committee, aptly called the Housing Committee. Finally. It's now the end of March. Don't hold your breath.

Mayor Eric Garcetti has spoken strongly about the housing crisis, but unfortunately he keeps pointing to new housing, rather than fixing the problems right in front of him.

Garcetti's office gave me a copy of a two-page letter he sent to the L.A. Tenants Union and to another organization called "Housing Now," in August 2017, outlining steps his office has taken to help renters. But not one action was directed towards non-RSO renters. We are truly the disenfranchised!

Come now, Mr. Mayor. If you're not going to run for president and give us reflected pride that way, at least take some measures to fix the issues for those, like me, who are losing their homes. Eviction is the bottom rung, right before homelessness. It goes, food, water, shelter! It's kind of important!

There are only nine original Waverly tenants left and most of them will be leaving shortly, too.

We originally paid an average of \$1,500 a month and now Taylor is asking between \$3,000 and \$3,500. Over 20 apartments have been empty for nearly a year. Isn't this adding to the housing crisis and the new rent hikes in the neighborhood?

As for me, I have no place to move yet. I desperately want to stay in this neighborhood, but the only empty apartments I've found ... are right in this building. And that's not affordable housing for me.

Donna Barstow is a cartoonist for the *Los Angeles Times*, *Daily News*, *Psychology Today*, *Wall Street Journal* and the *New Yorker*, among others. You can find her cartoons at [donnabarstow.com](http://donnabarstow.com) and her blog on housing and renters' rights at [waverlydr.com](http://waverlydr.com).

### FIRES from page 1

Simon, who studies fire response plans, said in an interview. "Communities have encroached upon areas that were already susceptible to fires, but now they are happening more frequently and with more intensity."

California is coming off its most destructive fire season on record.

Last year, wildfires killed more than 100 people, burned at least 1.8 million acres and ruined over 17,000 homes and 700 businesses, according to a report by the National Interagency Coordination Center, which provides fire guidance and data to local agencies across the country.

Griffith Park, one of the nation's largest urban parks and a busy tourist destination, is designated by the city as an extreme fire hazard zone.

If a blaze breaks out, officials must evacuate thousands of people across its network of roads and trails.

Park landmarks including the Los Angeles Zoo, Autry Museum of the American West, Greek Theater and two golf courses must also be accounted for, each with their

own site-specific emergency plans.

The Los Angeles Park Ranger Division is responsible for carrying out the fire response in the park. The plan is developed in coordination with the Los Angeles Police and Fire Depts.

Park Ranger Chief Joe Losorelli said the division's rangers, which oversee all of Los Angeles's parkland, are also trained firefighters and receive periodic evacuation instruction.

On red flag days, for example, when the hot Santa Ana winds blow and when fire danger is at its peak, the division deploys up to eight rangers across the 4,310-acre park, depending on how many are available to work extra shifts.

During an evacuation, rangers and police on foot and in vehicles use megaphones to direct visitors to safe exit routes on roads or trails.

Rangers can also open normally closed-off roads if necessary.

"If there's a fire in an area where anyone is in danger, we automatically evacuate," said Losorelli.

Park entrances at Ver-

mont Canyon and Western Canyon roads, which lead to the Griffith Observatory, are closed to incoming traffic.

Rangers also alert the California Highway Patrol to shut down highway onramps on the east side of the park by the Los Angeles River.

"During [an] evacuation ... nobody would be able get into the park," said Losorelli.

To prevent bottlenecks, people are instructed to exit the park on foot. Rangers

on four-wheel drive vehicles evacuate those who are unable walk out unassisted.

Simon, the University of Colorado researcher, said preventing visitors from driving out of the park is a responsible decision, since evacuees can become trapped in traffic jams during fast-moving fires.

During the devastating Camp Fire in Northern California last November, at least 10 people were killed in their vehicles after residents over-

loaded the narrow roads out of town.

Still, Simon raised concerns about the city's current plan of evacuating people who may need assistance walking out of the park.

"It's easy to imagine park staff being unavailable to evacuate an entire bus tour carrying a senior group," Simon said. "I could see scenarios where the on-foot model could be challenging."

see FIRES page 30

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[CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY]

## The Extended Foster Youth Program— A Vision Unrealized

By Assemblymember Laura Friedman

Nine years ago California made history. In 2010, AB 12, the California Fostering Connections to Success Act, was signed into law.

This made our state one of the first in the nation to create an extended foster youth program, an opportunity born from the federal Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008.

California had a vision to

Chicago Chapin Hall study, it was found that over 35% of enrolled foster youth reported experiencing homelessness. This is yet another situation where the housing crisis is affecting our most vulnerable residents. If 35% of foster youth are housing insecure, this program is not living up to its intentions or promises.

Nine years later, it's time we address it. For this reason, I have introduced AB 531,

and rights of all Californians. And while foster youth make up a small percentage of the population, they have the special distinction of being the responsibility of every Californian. They are our children and we should care for them as such.

In 2017, the California Legislature and governor overwhelmingly supported one of my first bills, AB 766, which bridged a gap to ensure that

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### In a recent University of Chicago Chapin Hall study, it was found that over 35% of enrolled foster youth reported experiencing homelessness.

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allow foster youth the same experience and advantages of their peers by extending the time we can continue to link them to housing. It was a brave, compassionate and noble vision. However, nine years later it has yet to be fully realized.

Prior to the creation of the Extended Foster Youth Program, foster youth faced serious challenges once they aged out of the system at 18. Often, they ended up in extreme poverty, homeless or incarcerated.

While studies have shown that the program has brought significant improvements to the lives of participating youth—including education opportunities, employment rates and other social benefits—the same studies have also revealed a startling lapse.

In a recent University of

my bill to help connect foster youth to housing as they make the transition to adulthood and fulfill the promises of the Extended Foster Care Program.

This measure will create housing navigators to help guide youth in locating and securing housing; will require that counties keep tabs on meeting the immediate housing needs of foster youth in their care; and it will break down existing barriers that currently obstruct host families' ability to continue providing housing to those enrolled.

As most young Californians transition from adolescence to adulthood and independence, they have the assistance of their parents on which to rely. I believe that as a legislator, it is my duty and purpose to fight for the needs

every foster youth enrolled in college has access to housing support. This year, I hope my colleagues will again show the same level of compassion and commitment to all our foster youth.

Just as with any child, setting up foster youth for a lifetime of success benefits us all. It was from that very belief that the historic Extended Foster Youth Program was established and I believe it is from this same belief that my colleagues will work with me to fully realize it.

I would love to answer any questions or hear your thoughts, ideas, or concerns. Please feel free to reach out to me, for any reason, through my District Office by phone (818) 558-2043 or email at: Assemblymember.Friedman@assembly.ca.gov.



[COUNCIL DISTRICT 4]

## Investing Again in the City's Tree Canopy

By Los Angeles City Councilmember David Ryu

The deodar cedar tree. Is there any symbol more iconic of Los Feliz? They have graced our Los Feliz Boulevard for the past 100 years, and in that time, have planted roots in the minds of all who have come to know and love Los Feliz.

Trees have a special place in human history. As the symbols of holidays and nation-states, the welcome of shade and respite, trees have grown up right alongside human civilization, in our yards, parks and neighborhood streets, quietly cleaning the air and calming the mind.

Did you know that spending a few minutes just looking

portant to Los Feliz: they're important to all of Los Angeles. That's why I am working to overhaul our city's tree management policies down to the root. Our city's Urban Forestry Division was devastated in the 2008 economic recession and hasn't returned to pre-recession levels since.

This is part of the reason our city is lacking some pretty basic needs: like a street tree inventory or long-term plan for protecting our urban canopy against the threats of drought, climate change and invasive species.

My three motions, introduced late last year with Coun-

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### Our city's Urban Forestry Division was devastated in the 2008 economic recession and hasn't returned to pre-recession levels since. This is part of the reason our city is lacking some pretty basic needs: like a street tree inventory or long-term plan for protecting our urban canopy against the threats of drought, climate change and invasive species.

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at tree has measurable benefits on our mental health? We of course know all that trees do to clean our air, cool our city and improve the quality of our neighborhoods, but trees have also shown to have a psychological power as well.

Study after study has shown that just looking at trees can reduce anxiety and depressive thoughts. One 1989 study out of Cambridge University even showed the presence of trees helped people feel less lonely and isolated—and that's aside from the power we know trees have to bring communities together over a shared purpose and identity.

The name "deodar cedar" itself stems from a mythical power. It's etymology traces back to ancient Sanskrit *devadaru*, which literally means "wood of the gods."

It was the Los Feliz Improvement Assoc. (LFIA) that first brought the deodar cedar trees to Los Feliz and it's the same association serving these trees today.

More than 100 years later, many of these trees are worse for the wear and nearing the end of their lifespan. I was honored to help the LFIA replace eight deodar trees that were removed, to ensure these iconic trees continue to grace Los Feliz Boulevard.

But trees aren't just im-

cilmember Bob Blumenfield, would do a number of things.

They start with increasing staff and expertise in our Urban Forestry Division and getting a complete inventory of city trees.

They also seek to improve our street tree replacement policy and review our sidewalk and street repair program to find more creative repair solutions that can keep healthy trees in the ground.

Finally, they call for a new Director of Community Forestry position to develop a long-range strategy for protecting and growing our city's urban canopy.

You can read more about my commitment to growing our city's tree policies on my website at davidryu.lacity.org/trees and stay connected as these motions work through the legislative process—they most recently passed the city council's Public Works committee in February.

Trees—from the walnut, to the cypress, to the deodar cedar—have been with our city since the very beginning. Today, they are the best tool we have to cool our city in a warming climate.

It's time the city recognizes the importance of our trees and commits to their protection like Los Feliz has for its beloved deodar cedars.



[SILVER LAKE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL]

## WAZE, Climate Change & Safe Workplaces

By Anne-Marie Johnson, Co-chair

The Silver Lake Neighborhood Council (SLNC) has completed another busy and successful month. On March 20th, the SLNC Transportation and Neighborhood Safety Committee held a community meeting to give stakeholders a chance to voice their opinions on the impact of navigation apps like WAZE—and identify the neighborhood streets that need help with cut-through traffic now.

According to Committee Co-chairs Tony Michaelis and Paul Emmons, the Committee will work with Los Angeles City Council District 4, Council District 13 and relevant city

agencies on next steps.

The SLNC's Green Committee continues to organize fantastic educational gatherings on climate change and sustainability, in partnership with the Silver Lake Library. Attendees applaud this series of lectures regarding the environment and co-chairs John Wingler and Bob Lisauskas are doing great work.

During the March 6th SLNC board meeting, Assistant City Attorney Vivienne Swanigan and Deputy City Attorney Malaika Billups gave an eye-opening seminar about creating and maintaining a safe workplace. They also reviewed tools that can help

identify danger signs with regard to troubled co-workers. In light of the climate in work places across the country, their training was well received.

Due to popular demand, the SLNC is planning a third printing of the Slow Down Silver Lake safety signs. We will inform the community once funding is approved and the signs are produced. The SLNC truly appreciates all those who requested and displayed the signs.

Elections for the SLNC Governing Board will take place on April 6th. Please take time to cast your votes. For more election information, visit SilverLakeNC.org.

[LOS FELIZ IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION]

## Secrets of the 'Hood

By Lynne T. Jewell, Communications Co-Chair

When looking into the history of our community, misconceptions, factual errors and urban legends can always be found. That's why the LFIA thrives on digging deep as keepers of Los Feliz's past.

Over the years, the LFIA's History Committee has collected "Did You Knows?" Los Feliz-centric nuggets of information, some of which could serve as perfect categories for Jeopardy.

For instance, did you know that Tuxedo Terrace is named after a New York resort?

Did you know that Griffith Park is located at the 28-mile mark of the 51-mile Los Angeles River?

And did you know that Franklin Avenue has nothing to do with Benjamin Franklin? It was named after a "Franklin," a landowner of free but not noble birth in a Sir Walter Scott novel.

Another street name misconception is Talmadge Street. Some think it's named after actress Norma Talmadge. She supposedly lived nearby in an Italian Renaissance mansion on Cedarhurst Circle. But in actuality,

the street was named after a small town in Ohio.

One of the biggest Los Feliz legends relates to Mickey and Minnie Mouse. They were not created in the original Disney Studios that's now Gelson's Market. Due to a labor dispute, Walt Disney's famous animated mice were actually "born" in his nearby Lyric Street garage.

Fast forward to today's political arena. Did you know Los Angeles County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, who represents most of Los Feliz, was an actor before getting into politics? She played Zelda Gilroy in the TV series, *The Many Loves of Dobie Gillis*, over 50 years ago.

And, then there's Adam and Eve, as in U.S. Rep. Adam Schiff, whose congressional district includes Los Feliz. Yes, his wife's name is Eve. Schiff likes to joke that they know a couple whose names are Jack and Jill.

Los Feliz is well known for its architecture, boasting houses made by Frank Lloyd Wright to contemporary designer Barbara Bestor.

But did you know that two iconic modernist archi-

tect designed buildings in Griffith Park? In 1949, A. Quincy Jones created the facilities at the Griffith Park Girls Camp. And William Pereira (LAX and LACMA master plans) was responsible for the Los Feliz Performing Arts Center on Riverside Drive. The small arts campus, within the park boundaries, burned down in 1986, with the exception of the wardrobe building, currently used by the L.A. SHARES nonprofit.

But sometimes the LFIA history detectives do get stumped.

For instance, ever notice the "mystery" columns on Franklin and Rodney avenues? Residents have inquired about their historical significance. LFIA board member Don Seligman's conjecture is that they once marked the entryway to an early Los Feliz housing tract.

Or do you happen to know why Lyric Street is called such?

If anyone has any clues, LFIA wants to know. Or if you've ever been curious about something you've seen in Los Feliz, email your inquiries to [historychairs@lfia.org](mailto:historychairs@lfia.org).



[US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES]

## President Trump's Alarming Affinity for Authoritarians

By Rep. Adam Schiff

Over the past decade, we have witnessed a troubling resurgence of authoritarian rule around the world, and all too often, President Trump has been eager to engage.

Throughout his time in office, the President has heaped praise on autocrats and credulously accepted their explanations, denials and rationalizations against the advice of America's intelligence officials, and even common sense.

Last month, the President met face-to-face with North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un, one of the world's worst human rights violators, for the second time. It was apparent from the outset that by meeting with Kim without preparation or precondition, Trump

equally implausible denials from other authoritarians.

America's intelligence agencies have clearly and publicly concluded that Russia interfered in our 2016 election. Yet at a press conference in Helsinki with President Putin, Trump called American intelligence officials "political hacks" and responded to Putin's denials of interference by saying, "I really believe that when he tells me that, he means it."

Similarly, after journalist Jamal Khashoggi was brutally murdered in the Saudi consulate in Turkey, President Trump repeated Saudi Arabia's claims that Khashoggi was an "enemy of the state" and hedged on

### The President's proclivity for strongmen runs counter to our democratic values—and to our national security interests.

was disregarding the guidance of national security experts about Pyongyang's unreadiness to accept denuclearization.

Unsurprisingly, the two leaders did not reach an agreement to scale back and ultimately dismantle North Korea's nuclear weapon program. But the summit did provide Kim the prestige of once again sharing the world stage with a U.S. President while committing to nothing in return. Even worse, Trump accepted without question Kim's denial of any involvement in the death of American Otto Warmbier, saying "he tells me that he didn't know about it and I will take him at his word."

This uncritical acceptance of Kim's denial in the horrific murder of a U.S. citizen added a detestable climax to the summit's failure. It also harkened back to Trump's responses to

Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's involvement in the murder, arguing "maybe he did and maybe he didn't."

The President's proclivity for strongmen runs counter to our democratic values—and to our national security interests.

Recent history has shown us that the promise of democratic change is not inevitable, but requires the dogged commitment of free societies across the globe.

The President of the United States is often held up as the leader of the free world, but when President Trump uncritically praises autocrats or blindly trusts the worst human rights abusers in the world, our standing is undermined.

It is up to all of us to renew our commitment as the global champion of democracy and human rights.

[LOS FELIZ NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL]

## Your Neighborhood Needs Your Vote

By Celine Vacher, LFNC Business Rep and Election Co-Chair

"Didn't we JUST vote last year?"

This was the first e-mail I received as the newly elected chair of the Los Feliz Neighborhood Council's Elections Committee.

When the Los Angeles City Clerk shifted Neighborhood Council elections from even years to odd years, we found ourselves with back-to-back elections and I found myself worrying about voter fatigue. In a time when our news and media are oversaturated with all things politics, how would we motivate the community to get to the polls again? How would I convince my neighbors that you can make a difference?

Lo and behold, a month after receiving that email, 42 of you had registered as candidates, the most in our council's history! Two months later, I witnessed many of you walking the streets of Los Feliz, wearing your "I Voted" stickers, after having cast your ballots in the Los Angeles Unified School District Board election.

I was reminded of why I love my neighborhood so much.

Los Feliz is a community that understands the importance of local politics. We understand the value of having our voices heard and controlling the narrative of our home and its future. It's no surprise that the LFNC is recognized as one of Los Angeles' most prolific and effective Neighborhood Councils.

"Every vote counts!" That's what we teach our children, until they grow up and learn about the Electoral College, and realize it's not so black and white after all.

In a state like California, it's easy to feel complacent and forget the power of a single vote, but in a Neighborhood Council election, a single vote can have a significant impact.

The decisions made at the local government level are responsible for making changes that directly affect our lives and the LFNC is as local as local government gets.

Have you used the new crosswalk on Hollywood Bou-

levard? Have you dropped off your compost at the farmer's market? Have you donated school supplies or hygiene items to one of our many drives? That's the beauty of local government: it has the power to better our lives.

Joining the LFNC Board has been a great honor and I continue to be inspired by the hard work of my fellow board and committee members.

So on April 6th, I urge you to go to the polls and cast your ballots to elect the community leaders who will take part in making Los Feliz an even better place. Vote for your neighbor. Vote for the really smart woman you had a compelling conversation with in an Uber pool. Vote for the friendly man you shared a table and ideas with at one of our many coffee shops. Last year it was me, your neighborhood small business owner.

Local elections matter and I couldn't be more proud to serve a community that understands that.

See you at the polls!

## Los Feliz Ledger

### NOTICE TO READERS:

We've reached out to Los Angeles City Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell (District 13) for a monthly column and have not heard back yet.

We hope to have his column soon.

★ ★ ★ ★ NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL ELECTION GUIDE ★ ★ ★ ★

**ELECTION from page 10**

future of this landmark that has anchored our community for decades," she said.

**REGION 7**

Michael Masterson (T), incumbent Janis "John" Purins (T) and Sarah Ullman (P) are running for Region 7.

Masterson works for a company that pursues copyright infringement cases on behalf of photographers. He has lived in Silver Lake since 1988.

"One of my special interests is preserving our local history, something I've done actively for over ten years as co-chair of the Silver Lake History Collective Committee," said Masterson. "Our mission is to record events and oral histories of longtime Silver Lake residents, artists, business owners, architects, etc. Our interviews are part of the permanent archive at USC's Doheny Library."

Masterson previously served three terms on the SLNC governing board and was the founding co-chair of its Reservoir Complex Committee.

"As we move forward with a new master plan for the [Silver Lake] Reservoir, I bring my experience in consensus-building, dedication and community activism to the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council," he said.

Purins, a 32-year Silver Lake resident who is now retired, was formerly the director of California market operations at a global law firm.

He was appointed to the SLNC board to fill a vacancy in 2018 and co-chairs its Reservoir Complex Advisory Committee.

Among other issues, Purins said he is passionate about ensuring all stakeholders have input on the new master plan for the Silver Lake reservoir, addressing quality of life issues such as cut-through traffic from Waze and other wayfinding apps, and bringing more affordable rental housing to the area.

"Silver Lake's property values have risen in part because of our trend-setting artists and local businesses—the very same ones who are now being forced by economics to relocate outside the area," he said.

A five-year area resident, Ullman founded One Vote at a Time, an organization that makes free campaign videos for political candidates who advocate for gun safety legislation.

She also volunteers as a court-appointed advocate for children in the Los Angeles foster care system.

According to Ullman, she was inspired to run by the "once-in-many-decades opportunity to reimagine the [Silver Lake] Reservoir," as the city reimagines its master plan.

"I think we should take down the fences and the concrete and work to restore the banks of the reservoir to their natural beauty," she said. "Let's add more [Americans with Disabilities Act] accessible trails, bathrooms and improve and maintain the dog park."

**ATWATER VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

The **Atwater Village Neighborhood Council (AVNC)** election will take place at the Atwater Village Public Library, at 3379 Glendale Blvd., from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

There are 22 candidates running for 17 seats—four from each of three areas, one at-large representative and four special interest representatives. All board seats are up for election.

**NORTH ATWATER**

Six candidates are running for four seats representing North Atwater, which extends east to west from the 5 freeway to San Fernando road and north to south from the 134 freeway to Los Feliz Boulevard: incumbent Mike Batistick, Lonnie Colon, Spike Friedman, Jim Kane, incumbent Grace Santillano and Adam Welles.

Batistick, a current North Atwater board representative, is a television writer and playwright, who has lived

in Atwater for six years since moving from New York City with his wife.

He cites homelessness as the local issue of greatest concern for him and co-chairs the Homelessness Committee.

"Since early 2018, our committee has worked to provide our homeless stakeholders with access to food, hygiene kits, clothing and service providers form the many non-profit groups in our area," said Batistick.

Additionally, Batistick sits on the AVNC's Equestrian Committee.

"[Atwater Village has] the largest equestrian district in all of Los Angeles proper," said Batistick. "Unfortunately, the district is under threat from development, and we're working hard to preserve the area's unique character while allowing for sustainable and affordable housing."

An actor, who has lived in Atwater for four years, Kane said his focus if elected will be ensuring current residents are not displaced by development as the neighborhood grows in profile.

"As the [Los Angeles] river area gets cleaned up and with the bridge to connect Atwater Village and Griffith Park underway, more and more people are taking notice of our village," Kane said. "Developers see how special this area is and are looking at ways to change the zoning."

According to Kane, he has seen seven home flipped or rebuilt on his block within the last year, and expects the trend to continue.

"All residents should have peace of mind that this construction is being done safely and without displacing longtime residents," he said. "Growth is inevitable, but there is a delicate balance between adding housing that L.A. so desperately needs and how much the neighborhood can physically handle."

**CENTRAL ATWATER**

Incumbent Karen Barnett, Felicia Fasano, incumbent Anthony Forester, incumbent Karen Knapp and Jonathan Matz are running to represent Central Atwater, which extends east to west from the 5 freeway to San Fernando Road and north to south from Los Feliz Boulevard to Glendale Boulevard.

Barnett, a designer who has lived in Atwater for 17 years, cited restoration of the Los Angeles river as the neighborhood issue closest to her heart.

She currently sits on the board, chairs the River Committee and serves on the Transportation Committee.

Fasano, an Emmy-nominated casting director, has lived in Atwater for 13 years.

According to Fasano, she is "very concerned with all things to do with the [Los Angeles] river, which is basically our neighbor and supports so much of our wildlife [in Atwater]."

An insurance underwriter who's lived in Atwater for a year and a half, Forester brings his expertise in safety and risk management to the board in his current position representing Central Atwater.

Forester also serves on the council's River and Education committees and serves as the council's "resilience liaison," working with the city to increase safety and disaster preparedness in Atwater.

"We are currently working on an information session to let our constituents know about changes to the flood hazard maps in the area," he said.

Friedman, a UCLA graduate student studying urban planning and housing policy, has lived in Atwater for over four years. He serves on the council's Homelessness Committee.

"Housing affordability and homelessness are the most pressing issues facing our community today," Friedman said. "We need to take a comprehensive approach to solving these problems and need to work as a community to ensure that the most vulnerable are taken care of."

A retired print production manager, Knapp has lived in the neighbor-

hood for 15 years and served three terms on the AVNC's board.

Additionally, she has chaired the Website and Public Safety committees and currently serves on the Community Greening, Communication and Outreach committees. She is also a member of the Alliance for River Communities and the Alliance for Sustainability, two city advisory groups whose members serve on the boards of various neighborhood councils throughout the city.

A two-year Atwater Village resident, Matz has served on the AVNC's Land Use and Transportation committees.

Matz works as a senior policy manager at a nonprofit organization "whose mission is to make it easier for kids to walk and bike to schools and parks" and said transit access is the neighborhood issue that is most important to him.

Colon, Santillano and Welles did not respond to a request for an interview.

**SOUTH ATWATER**

Incumbent Josh Hertz, Timothy Jennings, incumbent and current AVNC co-chair Courtney Morris, Gabrielle Joy Seiwert and incumbent Matthew Weil are running for South Atwater, which extends east to west from the 5 freeway to San Fernando Road and north to south from Glendale Boulevard to approximately the 2 freeway, excluding everything southeast of Ripple Street after Fletcher Drive.

Hertz, a 7-year resident who owns a business selling musical instruments and brokering memorabilia sales to places like the Hard Rock Cafe, currently represents South Atwater on the board.

Hertz co-chairs the council's Homelessness Committee and is an organizing member of a local homeless outreach group called SELAH—an acronym for Silver Lake, Echo Park, Los Feliz, Atwater Village and Hollywood—which has helped organize events such as two recent Homeless Connect Days held at Griffith Park's Friendship Auditorium.

"Through both of these groups, we organize [connect days and] monthly potlucks for our unhouseed neighbors to receive not only a meal and donated goods, but access to L.A. city and county homelessness services ... along with clothing, showers and haircuts," Hertz said.

Hertz also chairs the Transportation Committee and serves on the Budget & Finance and Governance, Governmental Relations & Elections committees.

Jennings, a freelance writer and stay-at-home dad has lived in Atwater for 10 years.

"The issues facing Atwater that I am most passionate about are homelessness, the trash build up in our section of the L.A. River, and making sure Atwater stays diverse racially and economically," he said.

A three-term boardmember and current board co-chair, Morris has lived in Atwater since 2010. She works as a reality television casting director and said she is passionate about combating homelessness and preserving the area's equestrian community.

Morris also chairs the council's Outreach and Tree Lighting committees, sits on the Budget and Finance, Equine and Homelessness committees, and previously served on the Education and Governance, Governmental Relations & Elections committees.

Weil, a reality television producer and eight-year resident of Atwater Village, is currently finishing his first term on the board as a South Atwater representative. Additionally, he serves on the AVNC's Environmental and Land Use Committee and chairs its Community Greening Committee.

"Out of all the issues facing Atwater, I am most passionate about preserving the character of our neighborhood," said Weil. "Our unique single family homes are disappearing at an

alarming rate due to small lot [subdivisions]," which allow for multiple houses to be built on one lot. "Affordable housing is necessary ... but the stakeholders of Atwater Village deserve to have a say in its future."

Seiwert did not respond to a request for an interview.

**BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE**

Nikki Parish is running unopposed. She did not respond to a request for an interview.

**COMMUNITY GROUPS/ NON-PROFIT REPRESENTATIVE**

An entertainment producer, production manager and two-year resident of Atwater, Teresa Prindle is running unopposed.

She currently sits on the board as a North Atwater representative, after being elected in a June 2018 special election, and chairs the Outreach and Communications committee.

Prindle also serves on the Public Safety and Governance, Governmental Relations & Elections committees and runs the AVNC's social media platforms.

According to Prindle, she plans to continue her work promoting community outreach, engagement and public safety and addressing homelessness in the neighborhood.

"I love Atwater Village and the sense of community here," she said. "I am passionate about preserving that as well as enhancing it."

**FAITH BASED ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTATIVE**

Incumbent and current AVNC co-chair Edward Morrissey is running unopposed.

Morrissey, an attorney specializing in health care and government issues and a nine-year resident of Atwater Village, has been elected twice to the Faith Based Organizations Representative position. Additionally, he has served on the AVNC's Executive, Community Plan, Election, Tree Lighting and River committees.

"I am interested in making sure Atwater Village maintains the character and charm that I think attracted many of us villagers to move here in the first place," Morrissey said, citing the area's equestrian population, community events and friendly spirit as aspects that make the neighborhood special to him.

**EDUCATION REPRESENTATIVE**

Incumbent Monica Waggoner is running unopposed. A native Angeleno, she has lived in Atwater Village since 2007.

In addition to her role as the AVNC's Education Representative, Waggoner, who works as a child passenger safety technician—teaching families how to use and install car seats—chairs the council's Education Committee and sits on its Homelessness, Transportation, Outreach and Government Relations, Governance & Elections committees.

"We have great neighborhood schools, but there's still funding issues and misconceptions about local public schools," said Waggoner. "We also need to improve safety and efficiency of routes to school for middle and high schoolers journeying to [Washington] Irving [Middle School], [John] Marshall [High School] or [Sonia] Sotomayor [Learning Academy] from Atwater Village."

**AT-LARGE REPRESENTATIVE**

David A. Marcillo and Julyana Mendez are running for one at-large seat.

A 6th grade English teacher and eight-year resident of the neighborhood, Marcillo hosts a weekly trivia night at Atwater Village bar Link N Hops.

According to Marcillo, he is most passionate about issues concerning the Los Angeles River.

"I love spending time next to the

river and think it is such an undervalued resource in our neighborhood," he said.

Mendez, a 22-year resident who said she was born and raised in Atwater, is a program specialist for a homeless outreach nonprofit organization. She is also a full-time graduate student studying public administration at USC.

According to Mendez, if elected she hopes to increase youth engagement in the neighborhood council.

"In Atwater, you can vote and run for a [neighborhood council board] position when you are 16 years old, yet I don't see any involvement from teens in committees or running for neighborhood council," she said. "I would love to encourage the youth in Atwater to feel empowered to make a difference in the community."

If elected, Mendez said she plans to join the AVNC's Outreach and Homelessness committees.

**ECHO PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

The **Echo Park Neighborhood Council (EPNC)** will hold its elections from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Edendale Library, located at 2011 W Sunset Blvd.

All 21 EPNC seats are up for election and there are 31 candidates running. The seats are split between nine at-large representatives and two representatives for each of six districts.

**AT-LARGE**

Paul Bowers, Bryan Castillo, Richard Courtney, Alexis Hanawalt, incumbent Darcy Harris, Dave Martinez, Sachin Medhekar, Mo Najand, Kadoety Parks, Jesse V Reyes, Raphael Rodriguez, Jay Thames and Tad Yenawine are running for at-large seats.

A 20-year resident of the neighborhood, Bowers owns a small business designing and selling technology for people with mobility impairments, and as such, he said he is most concerned with access equity.

"Sidewalks, cub cuts and bike lanes are my top priority," he said.

Bowers, currently a District 1 representative, has served on the board for two terms.

Courtney, currently a member of the board representing District 2, has lived in Echo Park for the past nine years, though he lived nearby for nine years prior to that.

A television executive producer, Courtney said he is most passionate about "preserving culture and history in a dying city."

He has served two terms on the board thus far and has been on the council's Planning & Land Use, Dodgers and Budget & Finance committees.

Harris, a civil attorney, has lived in Echo Park for 20 years, and has served on the EPNC board for the past three.

She has served as vice chair of the board, is chair of the Bylaws & Standing Rules Committee and co-chairs the Planning & Land Use Committee.

According to Harris, she is most concerned about "long-term planning land use policies that will shape the neighborhood for decades to come."

A two-and-a-half-year resident of Echo Park, Thames is a film producer.

He said he is passionate about safety and "informing the general public about the EPNC and concurrently their ability to effect positive change."

A seven-year Echo Park resident and chef, Martinez has worked at several local restaurants, such as Silver Lake's Flore Vegan and Blair's and Echo Park's Elf Cafe.

According to Martinez, he is passionate about "giving a voice to the unheard and often unrecognized people of Echo Park."

He said he hopes to bring "an unbiased opinion and a fresh perspective" to the board.

Najand, a 20-year resident of Echo Park who works for a large tech

see ELECTION page 29

★ NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL ELECTION GUIDE ★

**ELECTION** *from page 28*

nology company, has represented District 1 on the EPNC's board since 2018. He also co-chairs its Homelessness Committee.

"I am interested in all quality of life issues that impact the neighborhood, homelessness, development and planned improvements," he said.

A native Angeleno and eight-year resident of Echo Park, Reyes is a senior public works analyst for the city of Redondo Beach.

According to Reyes, housing affordability is the neighborhood issue that most concerns him.

The rising cost of housing "not only ends up displacing long time residents but it exacerbates the homelessness crisis as well," he said.

Current District 4 representative Tad Yenawine has lived in Echo Park for 23 years, serving on the EPNC for seven. He serves as the EPNC's Film Liaison to the city and sits on its Bylaws Committee.

According to Yenawine, when he first joined the council it was "a real mess," he said, "not very functional, nor very respectable—nor very respectful."

Yenawine, who said he wrote about 90% of the council's current bylaws previously served as council chair, but recently stepped down, citing the board's lack of adherence to its own bylaws. If elected as an At-Large representative, he said he would likely run for chair again.

"I'd like to make it work," said Yenawine of the embattled EPNC. "It's the only place people under 18 and undocumented immigrants can vote. I would love to see the neighborhood council be a way to advance policy."

One such policy Yenawine said he would like to see enacted is free citywide WiFi, which he said then Los

Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa promise more than a decade ago, but which never came to fruition.

Castillo, Hanawalt, Medhekar, Parks and Rodriguez did not respond to interview requests.

**DISTRICT 1**

Michael Galano, incumbent Devin McCutchen and Brandon Patterson are running for District 1, which is formed by the pocket where the 2 and 5 freeways intersect. It ends at Stadium Way on the southeast and roughly at Scott Avenue on the southwest.

None of the candidates for District 1 returned requests for an interview.

**DISTRICT 2**

In District 2, which covers Dodgers Stadium, Elysian Park and the residential areas around them, Chris Ellington, Justine Gonzalez and incumbent Cheryl Ortega are running.

Ellington, a consultant and producer in the music business, has lived in the neighborhood since 1993, though he said "I don't think that my local longevity should give me any extra say in how things should be run."

He does, however, think it gives him a valuable perspective on "how endangered the neighborhood is of losing all its former character, charm and ethnic diversity."

According to Ellington, he is most passionate about "ending the greed-driven overdevelopment of the area," which he said has exacerbated traffic and safety issues in the area "with the blessing of our fearless leader [Los Angeles Mayor Eric] Garcetti."

Additionally, Ellington said, he is in favor of finding an alternate location for a "much needed" homeless housing center slated to replace a playground *see ELECTION page 35*



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[HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS]  
**Spring Sports in Full Swing**

By Mike Guardabascio, Ledger Columnist

**MARSHALL HIGH**

The Marshall softball team is off to a 6-3 start for head coach Orquidea Labrador, with league play set to start shortly after print deadline.

The Barristers have five players hitting .400 or better, including senior Alyssa Puirre, who's hitting .536 with 16 runs and seven RBIs, and freshman standout Jazmin Frias, who's hitting .467 with a team-high nine RBIs.

Marshall's baseball team is 4-9 under coach Shane Gerard, with senior pitcher Abraham Pacheco leading the way with two wins on the mound and just five earned runs given up in those three games.

Marshall's boys' volleyball team is 5-7 overall to start the season.

**IMMACULATE HEART HIGH SCHOOL**

The Pandas softball team is 6-5 to start the season but dropped their Sunshine League opener. Sophomores Lily Factora and Emily Maloney lead the way with seven RBIs.

**BERNSTEIN HIGH**

The Dragons boys' soccer team had an absolute heart-

**BELMONT HIGH**

The Belmont girls' soccer team bounced back from a 4-7

It's been a rough start to the spring season for the Sentinels, as their baseball, softball,

and boys' volleyball teams are a combined 0-17. storied history and 2019 looks like it could be another special season. The Cubs are 11-2 and ranked No. 2 in the nation by MaxPreps, behind SoCal rival Newport Harbor.

Loyola is running a 6-2 offense with two setters, led by UC San Diego commit Will Campbell and Henry Wedbush.

The Loyola baseball team has started 9-4 but just 3-4 in league, competing in the nation's best baseball conference in the Mission League.

Junior Kevin Parada, a Georgia Tech commit, is leading the Cubs with a .486 batting average and 17 RBIs.

**The Bernstein Dragons boys' soccer team had an absolute heartbreak of an end to their season—after reaching the L.A. City Section Division 4 championship, they lost vs. George Washington Prep in a penalty kick shootout, falling 4-3.**

break of an end to their season, after reaching the L.A. City Section Division 4 championship.

Bernstein played George Washington Prep to a 2-2 tie in regulation and overtime and went to a penalty kick shootout to decide the champion, falling 4-3.

In the spring, the Dragons boys' volleyball team is off to a 6-2 start under coach Chad Finch, led by captains Puvanat Suwaanarat and Tyrese Gamila.

The Bernstein softball team is 1-5 under coach Ky Seacat.

start to make it all the way to the L.A. City Section Division 3 championship, where they faced Rivera. Belmont ended up losing 2-0 in the championship game.

and boys' volleyball teams are a combined 0-17.

**LOYOLA**

The Loyola boys' volleyball team has a long and

**FIRES from page 25**

Another worry is that city's emergency text system, which residents have to sign up for online, may not reach enough people, including tourists who aren't aware of the alerts.

In addition, those who do receive the messages may not realize the urgency of an evacuation order.

"Most people don't understand how fast fires move—sometimes over a mile per minute," said Simon.

Los Feliz resident Richard Stanley remembers how a 2007 fire in Griffith Park

nearly engulfed homes along Los Feliz Boulevard.

The flames, which scorched over 800 acres, ignited near the top of the park in the afternoon and by that evening threatened residential areas.

"The trees would torch and just explode," Stanley said. "They would catch fire, and in a couple of seconds, be engulfed in a tower of flame. I thought the neighborhood north of [Los Feliz] boulevard was going to be toast."

Luckily, no homes were destroyed in the blaze. But the fire served as a powerful reminder of the threat neighborhoods near the park face.

On red flag days—when

winds are stronger than 25 miles per hour and humidity is less than 15%—the city's Dept. of Transportation is authorized to tow illegally parked cars in high fire risk areas, including near Griffith Park.

The city also routinely inspects local properties to ensure flammable brush and vegetation is cleared and fines property owners not in compliance.

But to fully address the threat, Simon, the Colorado researcher, said, the city may need to consider whether homes should be allowed in extremely fire-prone areas in the first place. He cautions against new development in high-risk neighborhoods as well as rebuilding houses that were destroyed in past fires, such as the over 400 homes lost in Malibu during the Woolsey Fire last year.

Neighborhoods bordering Griffith Park significantly increase the chance of a deadly fire in the area, he said.

Downed power lines, which likely caused the Camp Fire, are a concern and houses can act as kindling once a blaze ignites.

"They add fuel to the fire, which could race down-slope or up-slope into these nearby communities," he said.

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SPECIAL SECTION

# SUMMER CAMP GUIDE

By Juliet Bennett Rylah, Ledger Contributing Writer

**Day Camps**

**ANNENBERG PETSACE KIDS SUMMER CAMP**

Campers will learn all about caring for furry friends at the Annenberg PetSpace Kids Summer Camp. Five-day sessions incorporate lessons on pet adoptions, animal behavior and bonding, training, grooming, and veterinary care into games, demonstrations, crafts, and, of course, supervised interactions with actual pets.

Dates: 6/10 – 8/16  
 Ages: 9 – 12  
 Schedule: 10 a.m.–3 p.m.  
 Cost: \$350  
 First day to register: Now  
 Address: 12005 Bluff Creek Dr., Playa Vista  
 Website: [petspacecamp.org](http://petspacecamp.org)  
 Phone: (818) 932-4600

**ART CENTER FOR KIDS SUMMER WORKSHOPS**

Students can attend weeklong arts classes in a variety of mediums including cartooning, architecture, illustration, painting, zine-making, watercolor, wearable art and more. The camp is held at the ArtCenter College of Design in Pasadena.

Camp fees include all the art-making materials your child will need.

Dates: 6/24 – 8/9  
 Ages: Grades 4-8  
 Schedule: 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.  
 Cost: \$300 – \$375 per week  
 First day to register: 5/28  
 950 S. Raymond Ave., Pasadena  
 Website: [artcenter.edu/kids/summerworkshops.jsp](http://artcenter.edu/kids/summerworkshops.jsp)  
 Phone: (626) 396-2319

**BURBANK MUSIC ACADEMY ROCK-N-ROLL CAMP**

Kids will embrace their inner rock star at this weeklong music camp. Students will first receive an intro to various rock instruments before choosing one to play in their own, real band. Music acts are grouped by age and musical ability and camp will conclude with a performance showing off their new skills. Students do not need to know music to attend, but those who do may audition to attend an advanced camp.

Dates: 5/28 – 8/16  
 Ages: 6 and up  
 Schedule: 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.  
 Extended care available.  
 Cost: \$300 per week-long session (\$250 for four days)

First day to register: Now. Early bird registration prices end May 1st.  
 4107 West Burbank Blvd., Burbank  
 Website: [burbankmusicacademy.com/camps.html](http://burbankmusicacademy.com/camps.html)  
 Phone: (818) 845-ROCK (7625)

**ENTERPRISE FARMS**

At this equestrian camp, kids will learn to ride, groom and care for gentle horses and ponies. Other activities include games on horseback, a field trip to the Mounted Police headquarters, arts and crafts and a closing horse show and awards ceremony. Both first-time and experienced riders are welcome.

Dates: 6/10 – 9/9 (June is currently waitlist only.)  
 Ages: 6 and up.  
 Schedule: 9:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m.  
 Cost: \$600 per week  
 First day to register: Now  
 Paddock Riding Club  
 3919 Rigali Ave., Los Angeles  
 Website: [enterprisefarms.com](http://enterprisefarms.com)  
 Phone: (323) 665-8977

**GOLDEN STATE GYMNASTICS**

Beginning and experienced tumblers alike are invited to flip, jump and play at Golden State



Gym's gymnastics camp. Campers will train their strength and flexibility, practice healthy living, and learn new gymnastic tricks. Kids will also participate in open gym, games and arts and crafts.

Dates: 5/28 – 8/9  
 Ages: 4 and up.  
 Schedule: 8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.  
 Extended care available.  
 Cost: \$350 per week.  
 First day to register: Now  
 1828 N. Keystone St., Burbank  
 Website: [goldenstategym.com/camps](http://goldenstategym.com/camps)  
 Phone: (818) 558-1177

**KALLPACHAY CAMP**

Kallpachay is Spanish immersion camp with both local instructors

and instructors from Spain. Students begin their day with themed Spanish lessons followed by electives in the arts, sports and science. Each day concludes with an in-depth exploration of various Spanish-speaking cultures around the world. Every two weeks, campers switch to a new country, delving into its food, customs, music, geography and more.

Dates: 6/24 – 8/02  
 Ages: 3 – 10  
 Schedule: 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.  
 Cost: \$450 for one week, \$2,700 for six weeks  
 First day to register: Now  
 Addresses:  
 30 Marion Ave., Pasadena  
 5933 Lindley Ave., Tarzana

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Phone: (818) 392-4826

**KIDSPACE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM**

Kidspace Camp offers hands-on, educational art and science instruction and play. Weeklong sessions are grouped by theme. Early Learners (ages 4-5) can choose among „Ready, Set, STEM,“ the art-themed „Messy Masterpieces,“ „Bugs Big and Small,“ or a Spanish/English camp where art and science activities are completed in both languages. Older Campers (5-9) might take „Digging for Dinosaurs,“ „Physics Past to Present,“ „Ancient Art,“ or learn to put on their own puppet show with „Hanging Around the Bob Baker Marionette Theater.“

Dates: 6/10 – 8/9  
Ages: 4 – 9  
Schedule: 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. for Early Learners; 9:00 a.m.–3 p.m. for older campers.  
Cost: \$450 per week for full days, \$250 per week for half days. (Discounts available for Kidspace Members.)  
First day to register: Now  
480 N. Arroyo Blvd., Pasadena  
Website: [kidspacemuseum.org](http://kidspacemuseum.org)  
Phone: (626) 449-9144

**ECOLE DU SOLEIL**

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in French, art, music, improv and sports, while Wednesdays are set aside for educational field trips and Fridays for fun and games.

Dates: 6/17 – 7/19  
Ages: Preschool to 5th grade  
Cost: \$375 per week, \$95 per day. \$260 for part-time (any 3 days per week). Free optional daycare from 7:30 am–5:30 pm  
First day to register: Now  
4155 Russell Ave., Los Feliz  
Website: [internationalschool.la/activities/ecoledusoleil](http://internationalschool.la/activities/ecoledusoleil)  
Phone: (323) 480-4147

**PRIME TIME SPORTS CAMP**

Active campers will thrive at Prime Time Sports Camp. Students engage in both classic sports like basketball, soccer, tennis and hockey as well as camp games like dodgeball and Capture the Flag. Special events include picnics, carnivals, guest speakers and weekly tournaments. This year, Prime Time is also offering a combination Prime Time Tech camp at their West L.A. location, during which campers in grades 2-8 split their time between sports and tech activities like robotics, computer programming and DJ/music production. Parents can send their kids for the week or day for added flexibility.

Dates: 6/13 – 8/12  
Ages: 4 – 14  
Schedule: 9:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m. with extended care available.  
Cost: \$350 and up per week \$60 and up per day. Prime Time Tech is \$70/day.  
First day to register: Now  
Emerson Community Charter  
1650 Selby Ave., West L.A.

Crossroads  
1714 21st St., Santa Monica

Silver Lake  
Website: [primetimesportscamp.com](http://primetimesportscamp.com)  
Phone: (310) 838-7872

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Dates: 6/10 – 8/16

Ages: 6 – 14

Schedule: Mornings 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., afternoons 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., or full-day from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. with a one-hour lunch. Extended care available.

Cost: \$350 and up.

201 N Brand Blvd., #120B, Glendale  
700 Silver Spur Drive, #101, Rolling Hills Estates

10955 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles

Website: rollingrobots.com

Phone: 888-Robot-08

### SCHOOL OF ROCK

Whether your future Grammy winner is just beginning or already writing their own songs, School of Rock will hone their musical aptitude, teach them new songs and help them gain confidence on the stage. Choose from Rock 101 camps or themed sessions like “Tribute to L.A. Bands,” “Punk and Metal,” or “Diva’s Camp—A Tribute to Women Who Rock.” Camps conclude with a performance for friends and family.

Dates: 6/1 – 6/28

Ages: 3 – 18

Schedule: 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. or 9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m., depending on location

Cost: \$495–\$525

First day to register: Now, with early bird rates available in April and May.

7801 Beverly Blvd., Fairfax  
4516 Mariota Ave., Burbank  
12020 Wilshire Blvd., West L.A.

12300 Venice Blvd., Venice

Website: schoolofrock.com

### SILVERLAKE BEACH CAMP

Elementary school-age children will explore Los Angeles’ beaches, parks, museums, gardens, historic sites and the L.A. Metro system in groups of 25 or fewer, ensuring each child gets individualized attention. Students will also be encouraged to take photos to document their adventures, available for download via the camp’s Flickr site.

Dates: 7/8 – 8/2

Ages: 1st–7th grade

Schedule: 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Cost: \$480 per week.

First day to register: Now

Drop off and pick up at Pinwheels

Preschool

4607 Prospect Ave., Los Feliz

Website: silverlakecamps.com

Phone: (323) 445-3790

### STEVE & KATE’S

For families with erratic schedules, Steve & Kate’s offers multiple locations and complete flexibility. Buy single-day passes or summer-long memberships, plus pick up or drop off your kids any time within the daily window. Children choose their own activities, ranging from advanced “studio” programs like fashion, film, coding and robotics and music, or simpler activities like sports or games. Lunch and snacks are included and any unused day passes may be refunded.

Dates: 6/11 – 8/23

Ages: 4 – 12

Schedule: 7:30 a.m.–6:00 p.m., with pick up and drop off anytime during these hours.

Cost: \$110 for a single day; \$100/day for 5+ days; \$90/day for 20+ days, or \$2,700 for a summer-long membership.

First day to register: Now.

Various locations in Beverly Hills, Los Angeles, Manhattan Beach, Pasadena and Valley Village

Website: steveandkatescamp.com

### STRATFORD SCHOOL

Stratford School is a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) institution with over 20 locations in California. Throughout the summer, their various outposts offer a wide selection of age-appropriate options for students. The youngest campers learn via hands-on projects; elementary-age campers figure out how to solve real-world problems and middle school campers will take subject-based sessions while prepping for their upcoming high school entrance exams. The best bet for prospective parents is to check out their comprehensive 2019 guide to find

the right location and fit for your child.

Dates: 6/10 – 8/23

Ages: PreK – 8.

Schedule: Varies. Half and full days available.

Cost: Varies by age, session and campus.

Address: Varies

Website: stratfordschools.com/explore-programs/summer-camps

### STUDIO LOL: A COMEDY SCHOOL FOR KIDS

Class clowns will hone their skills at Studio LOL. Weeklong sessions teach kids the fundamentals of improv and how to craft original scenes, stories, characters, and sketches. All five-day camps end with a performance, unless otherwise noted.

Dates: 6/10 – 8/16

Ages: 5 and older

Schedule: 9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. or 9:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. for younger kids aged 5–8.

Cost: \$300 per week

First day to register: Now

12434 Moorpark St., Studio City

Website: studiolor.com

Phone: (818) 660-3460

### SUMMER ACTING CAMP

Summer Acting Camp is for kids who love to perform. Students are grouped by age and take a whopping 10 35-minute classes daily, including acting, singing, tap dance, stage combat, movement, improv, character, stagecraft, magic and on-camera. Each three-week session culminates in a performance on the La Canada Playhouse’s main stage.

Dates: 6/17–7/3 or 7/8–7/26

Ages: 5 – 15

Schedule: 8:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m., with free extended care from 7:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

Cost: \$780

First day to register: Now

4463 Oak Grove Dr., La Canada

Website: summeractingcamp.com

Phone: (818) 957-1619

### SUMMER SPORTS CAMP

Hollywood Soccer Academy is

geared towards kids who hope to play competitively, but trained coaches make sure they have fun, too. Campers will be grouped by age, then spend their mornings learning soccer skills. During select weeks in June and July, campers may also play basketball in the afternoons.

Dates: 6/10 – 8/16

Ages: 5 – 14

Schedule: 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Cost: \$250/week or \$60/day for half-days, \$400/week or \$90/day for full days.

First day to register: Now

3401 Riverside Dr., Griffith Park

Soccer: hollywoodsocceracademy.com

Phone: (310) 926-7668

### SUMMER WITH SHAKESPEARE

Budding thespians will learn acting, stage combat, mask work, voice, movement, stagecraft and design at A Noise Within’s Summer with Shakespeare camp. Young campers will get their first taste of theater with the weeklong Storytime with Shakespeare camp, while older campers will spend five weeks staging a full play.

Dates: 6/17 – 7/19.

Ages: 3 – 18

Schedule: 9 a.m.—12 p.m. for Storytime with Shakespeare or 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. for all others. Extended care available.

Cost: \$350 - \$1,600

First day to register: Now

3352 E. Foothill Blvd., Pasadena

Website: anoisewithin.org

Phone: (626) 356-3104

### SUMMERKIDS

Owned and operated by the DiMassa family since 1978, Summerkids offers three camps, grouped by age, on its 57-acre property in Altadena. Campers may participate in age-appropriate activities including hiking, swimming, gardening, archery, dance, cooking, movie making, songwriting and more. Summer Challenge sessions may include late-night field trips or overnight adventures.

Dates: 6/10 – 8/23

Ages: Summerkids PreK caters to 3–4 year-olds; Summerkids is designed for K–6th Grade; and Summer Challenge is for 7th–9th Graders.

Schedule: 8:30 p.m.—3:30 p.m. (SK-PreK), 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. (Summerkids and Summer Challenge) with extended care available.

Cost: \$480–\$4720

First day to register: Now

3697 N. Fair Oaks Ave., Altadena

Website: summerkids.net

Phone: (626) 577-9979 (March, April & May); (626) 398-1426 (June & Aug.)

### SWORDPLAY STUDIOS

Students need no pre-existing swashbuckling know-how to enroll in Swordplay Studios’ summer camp. Students may either learn to duel via a straight fencing camp, or fold it in with magic and mystery via themed Star Wars and Harry Potter camps.

Dates: 6/10 – 8/23

Ages: 4 – 9 for themed camps, 7+ for fencing

Schedule: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

depending on session.

Cost: \$360 per week and up, depending on session.

First day to register: Now

416 South Victory Blvd., Burbank

Website: swordplayla.com

Phone: (818) 566-1777

### THEATRE 360 PERFORMING ARTS CAMP

Future Broadway stars will act, sing, dance, and rehearse selections from popular plays and musicals at this performance-oriented summer camp. Older students with prior training may audition for an advanced Academy program, which concludes with a final showcase.

Dates: 6/3 – 8/16

Ages: 3 – 19

Schedule: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. with extended care available

Cost: Showbiz (ages 3–5), \$250 and up; Performing Arts (ages 6–19), \$350 and up; Academy (ages 13–19) \$360 and up (audition required)

75 N. Marengo Ave., Pasadena

Website: theatre360.org

Phone: (626) 577-5922

### TOM SAWYER CAMP

Tom Sawyer Camp has been around since 1926, offering “carefree, constructive, outdoor” fun just like the Mark Twain character it’s named after. Activities may include rock climbing, horseback riding, water sports, ropes courses, windsailing and more. Door-to-door transportation is provided for children inside their pick-up area or at specific meeting points for those outside. Parents may choose from two-to-five days per week, with sessions lasting as long as nine weeks total.

Dates: 6/17 – 8/23

Ages: 3–14

Schedule: 9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m., 9:05 a.m.—3:45 p.m., or 9:05 a.m.—3:00 p.m., depending on age and session.

Cost: Price varies by number of days and weeks registered.

First day to register: Now.

Hahamongna Watershed Park

707 West Woodbury Rd, #F, Altadena

Website: tomsawycamps.com

Phone: (626) 794-1156

### WIZARD OF ART

Art workshops run for 10 weeks starting in mid-June at the Wizard of Art in Los Feliz. Weekly four-hour classes include drawing, painting, animation cells and clay sculpting. Call to register.

Dates: Mid-June – August.

Ages: 4 and up

Schedule: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Cost: \$250 per week, materials included

First day to register: Now.

1947 Hillhurst Ave. Los Feliz

Website: thewizardofart.com

Phone: (323) 661-0341

### ZOO CAMP

Children will learn about nature, animals, and global cultures at the L.A. Zoo and Botanical Gardens’ summer program. Campers are grouped by age and themes rotate depending on the week. Younger campers might meet barnyard animals or sketch the zoo’s various creatures. Older campers might discover local plants and wildlife via a hike in Griffith Park or explore world mythologies during “Monsters and Dragons” week.

Dates: 6/17 – 8/6

Ages: Pre-K–5th grade

Schedule: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. with extended care available.

Cost: \$75/child

First day to register: 4/1 for members, 4/8 for the general public

Los Angeles Zoo

5333 Zoo Drive, Los Feliz

Website: lazoo.org/education/zoocamp/

Phone: (323) 644-4200

See more camps, including overnight offerings at [losfelizledger.com](http://losfelizledger.com)

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[www.kallpachay.com/camps](http://www.kallpachay.com/camps)



[SENIOR MOMENTS]

## How Do We Get Out of This Traffic Jam?

By Stephanie Vendig, Ledger Columnist

Driving or commuting in Los Angeles has become more of an endurance task than a pleasure and it is getting worse. The car has defined our culture because our original city planning was all about the

ency advocating for a more comprehensive public transportation system for Los Angeles County. They convinced LA Metro to put Measure R on the ballot and it won with 67.9% of the votes. In 2016, Measure M, an extension of Measure R, was approved by

change as a result of, in part, emissions of our heavy-duty trucks and the abundance of cars on the road.

But there is hope.

The recent 10th annual Transportation Conversation of Move LA featured Metro CEO Phil Washington, Cali-

was also discussed, in which drivers would be charged in accordance with the times and areas that have the most congestion.

In November 2020, "Vision 2020" will be on the ballot in the South Coast Air Quality Management District, including Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino and

Riverside counties, excluding the high desert. It would propose a sales tax to help reduce emissions, expand and electrify Metrolink, and enlarge the Move LA Coalition to become Move SoCal.

Solutions are on the horizon. We need to keep an eye out for them and vote accordingly.

**Ideas explored were free transit for students, seniors and the disabled, and increasing affordable housing closer to transit hubs and piloting a "Congestion Pricing" program, in which drivers would be charged in accordance with the times and areas that have the most congestion.**

car moving quickly through town. Now we have to change direction.

The pervasive "car culture" of Los Angeles has had an impact on how the city developed its public transportation. While other major cities designed their public transit systems along with their cities, intending them to be used by everyone, public transit in Los Angeles has always found it hard to compete with the car.

In 2008, the organization "Move LA" built a constitu-

71.1% of Angeleno voters and provided LA Metro with \$120 billion for transportation improvements over the next 40 years.

But when the recession and housing crisis hit, combined with fare increases and services cuts, public transit ridership decreased 6% and by 17% in 2015, perhaps due to the displacement created by surging housing prices of so many low income riders.

To add to our woes, we continue to face climate

fornia State Senator Kevin de Leon, and Chairperson Mary Nichols of the California Air Resources Board. They, along with other panelists representing public, private and nonprofit sectors strategized solutions to the challenges of getting from here to there in SoCal.

Among the ideas explored were free transit for students, seniors and the disabled, and increasing affordable housing closer to transit hubs. Piloting a Congestion Pricing program

### Sunset Hall - Curriculum and Advocacy

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Beginning Conversational Spanish

Wednesdays 3:30-4:30 & Advanced Thursdays 3:30-4:30

### Griffith Park Adult Community Center Calendar

**Weds., April 17, 2019: Lunch, General meeting and program, 12:00 noon – 2:30 pm**

Sign up for lunch at Friendship Auditorium between 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

Lunch is served from 11:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

**Program: "Want to Stay in Your Home as Long as Possible? Tips on How to Make Your Home Safe & Comfortable."**

A certified aging-in-place specialist will discuss the changes you can make so that you can live in your home for as long as you can. Realtors Hattie Ramirez and Gail Crosby will discuss the real estate aspect of aging in place and there will also be opportunity drawings for home modification items.

#### COMMUNITY:

**Join the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council Mature Adult Advocates** at the Silver Lake Public Library, on April 25, 2019, 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in a conversation with Los Angeles City Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell about the issues facing seniors in our community.

**The Lunch Program:** Lunch is served 5 days a week at the Center. \$2 is the donation for those over 60 years. \$4 for less than 60 years. Daily lunch is served at 12:00pm. Come in for coffee and sign in at 10:30am.

**For more information on the Griffith Park Adult Community Center and getting a newsletter, call GPACC at (323) 644-5579. You can also go to our website: [site.gpacclub.com](http://site.gpacclub.com)**

GPACC is located at 3203 Riverside Dr., just south of Los Feliz Bl.



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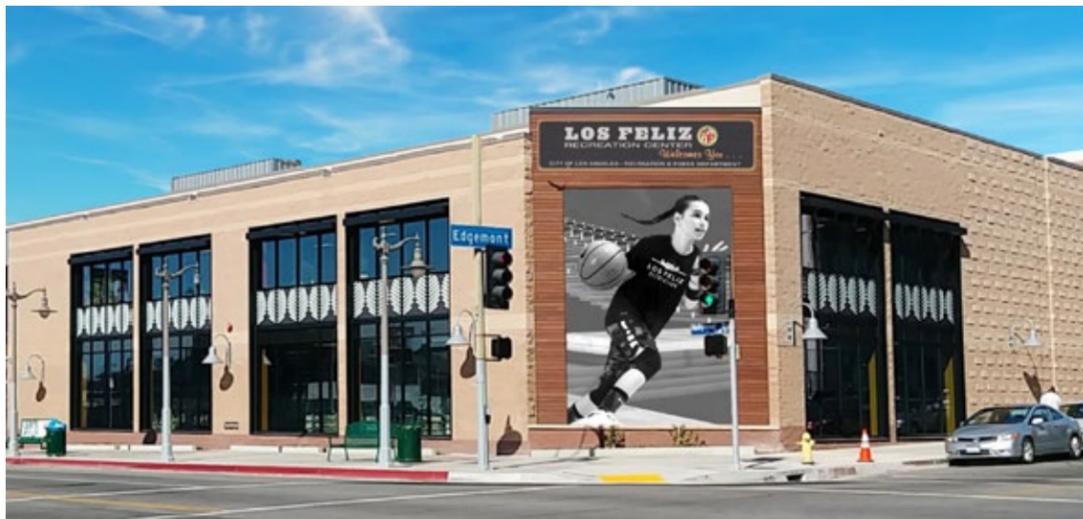


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[EDITORIAL]

# Instant Recreation Center: Just Add Determination

By Mark F. Mauceri



What a Los Feliz Recreation Center could look like at the now abandoned OSH on Hollywood Boulevard.

Photo composite: Mark F. Mauceri.

The Orchard Supply Hardware store, “OSH,” on Hollywood Boulevard, sits empty—all 36,000 square feet of it.

That upscale emporium, along with all of the chain’s other brick and mortar stores, fell victim last year to a corporate realization that Amazon’s convenient home delivery would eventually destroy them.

While the listing agents for the empty OSH site are hawking it as the “perfect Retail, Office or Medical Building,” here’s a thought: What if the city turned it into the community recreation center Los Feliz never got?

Consider that Silver Lake with 33,000 residents, per the 2010 Census, has two municipal recreation centers, while Atwater Village with 14,000 residents has one.

Don’t get me wrong: neither Silver Lake nor Atwater Village won the recreation lottery—far from it, as their programs get saturated by Los Feliz and East Hollywood

kids who don’t have their own recreation center. My lament is how can Los Feliz, with 38,000 people—forget about our non-existent rec center—not have one, just one, public basketball court? Population alone should compel our public officials to right this wrong. But no.

The rationale for civic action is the method the city and Los Angeles County uses to rank any area’s recreational needs. It’s a Byzantine formula that factors in a neighborhood’s *proximity* to public park land, but virtually ignores whether there are any recreation facilities on the land.

In other words, adjacency to our beloved Griffith Park is a blessing and a curse.

While the park is indeed a bucolic backdrop laden with scenic vistas and a celebrated bobcat, its sheer 4,500+ acre girth guarantees Los Feliz drops to the bottom of any recreational needs survey. This has been going on for decades, and will continue to go on unless the methodology changes. It *is*

broke, and we should fix it.

Now consider that the Westside’s Rancho Park, immediately adjacent to tony Cheviot Hills, just got a \$2 million state-of-the-art indoor archery range to complement its existing golf course, tennis courts, swimming pool, baseball and multi-use playing fields. Archery?

Again, good for Cheviot Hills. But if you can find an arrow that’s not missing most of the tail feathers it needs to fly straight into a weather-beaten target at Griffith Park Boys Camp, let me know.

In this era of “big data,” when a web browser pitches us products just like the ones we Googled the day before, any assertion we don’t have the tech know-how to accurately assess recreational needs across greater Los Angeles is, well ... lazy.

We’re the nation’s second largest city, but we’re in the low 70s (aka “the basement”) on a national list of cities that provide adequate recreation space.

there on occasion and is the Director of Bilingual Education for United Teachers Los Angeles.

“I am interested in supporting schools and libraries, but also in having a voice in the reasonable evolution of the changing community,” she said. “Diversity is important; residents’ rights are important; homelessness is important to address and immigrant rights must be protected.”

Ortega has served four terms on the EPNC board. She also chairs its Schools, Libraries & Community Organizations Committee.

### DISTRICT 3

A triangle bounded by the 101 freeway on the southwest, Waterloo Street on the northwest and Glendale Boulevard on the east, District 3 has four candidates running: Connie Acosta, David M. Bando and incumbents Pascal De Maria and Thomas DeVoss.

A film editor who has lived in Echo Park for eight years, De Maria was appointed to a vacant board seat in February.

“I’m most concerned with long term [neighborhood] planning and how

it will affect the current residents and stakeholders while still maintaining room for growth,” he said.

DeVoss, an architect, has served on the EPNC board for the past year and also sits on its Homelessness and Planning & Land Use committees.

According to DeVoss, some of the issues he cares most about include connecting Echo Park to the metro system, building affordable housing and maintaining existing affordable units, “preserving our charm, funk, architecture, nature and character” and creating a homeless access center.

Additionally, DeVoss said, he would like to focus on “healing our old development scars, like Chavez Ravine displacement, gentrification and [construction of] freeways with new housing, green overpasses and smart growth.”

Acosta and Bando did not return interview requests.

### DISTRICT 4

Four candidates are running in District 4, which is east of Echo Park Lake and west of Elysian Park between Sunset Boulevard and the 101 freeway. They are: Kevin Brennan, Will Erokani, Rebecca Leib and Ziba Perez Zehdar.

This failure, dubbed: “park poor,” is bandied about so much it is now accepted as a de facto birth defect L.A. simply can’t correct.

How many times have we heard politicians speak of “our children’s future?” I’d like one or two to start talking about our children’s *present* and then back up those words.

The OSH site is perfect for more than just sports. Dance, yoga, tai chi and art classes, for example, are all waiting to happen there. Much in the same way other municipal recreation centers in smaller neighborhoods serve their communities.

So, what’s stopping us from turning this empty building into a usable recreation center?

Community buy-in? No. I’m betting our community would welcome a public benefit a lot faster than it would another Whole Foods, Walgreens, CVS or a Smart & Final superstore.

Money? No. It would cost far more to acquire land and then design and construct a new facility rather than modify a turnkey one that has two open atrium stories and an underground parking lot—not to mention its former “Gardening Center” with the retractable roof.

Between developer-paid “Quimby” funds, county Tax Measure A funds, city Proposition K tax funds and the \$160 million Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti got from the International Olympic Committee earmarked for youth recreation, the money *is* there.

Political will? Hmmm-

mmm.

Los Angeles City councilmembers David Ryu and Mitch O’Farrell would both have to push this plan, as Hollywood Boulevard is the boundary between their two districts and between Los Feliz and East Hollywood.

If there’s a poster child for just how park poor L.A. is, East Hollywood with its 42,000 residents is it. One community center would serve both neighborhoods.

Ryu and O’Farrell also chair the city’s Heath, Education, Neighborhoods, Parks, Arts and River Committee. If they can’t get a worthwhile public recreation project done for their constituents, then it’s either truly inconceivable, or we’ve got the wrong two guys in those seats. We’re not talking about building a skyscraper here; it’s a very doable, not impossible, interior retrofit.

However, it will take vision, tenacity, and some balls—and not the kind Spalding or Wilson manufacture: the kind that find a way to “yes” rather than sheepishly accepting “no” for an answer at the very first hurdle. And there will be hurdles. Some leaders know how to get over (or around) them when they’re determined.

Let’s stop using “park poor” as the worst excuse for not doing something and start using it as the best reason to make something happen.

*Mark Mauceri is a former 10-year Los Feliz Neighborhood Council Boardmember and the founder of its Recreation Committee.*

## ★ ★ ★ ★ NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL ELECTION GUIDE ★ ★ ★ ★

### ELECTION from page 29

at local nonprofit El Centro del Pueblo.

“There are plenty of other places where you could build the center,” he said, “but those places are closer to the middle of Mitch O’Farrell’s council district and will cost him more votes if he puts [a homeless center] there.”

Community and political organizer Justine Gonzalez has lived in Echo Park for six years, after moving from nearby Silver Lake.

“I’m most passionate about the economic sustainability of our neighborhood—our residents’ ability to afford their homes, food, and ability to spend money at local businesses,” said Gonzalez. “I moved to Echo Park because it’s a vibrant and walkable community, and I want to make sure the neighborhood’s livability is maintained and expanded upon—despite numerous challenges around homelessness and housing affordability.”

Gonzalez is the former president of the mayor-appointed Los Angeles Human Relations Commission.

A retired bilingual kindergarten teacher, Ortega has worked at Logan Street Elementary School since 1990. She continues to substitute teach

Erokani is an animation editor who has lived in Echo Park since 2014.

“These days I’m interested in issues relating to public spaces and keeping rent affordable,” he said.

A television writer, producer and journalist, Leib has lived in Echo Park for eight years.

She has served on the Echo Park Homeless Coalition and is passionate about issues of homelessness, rent control and community resources.

Zehdar, a librarian, moved to Echo Park last year.

She said she is passionate about maintaining Echo Park Lake and loves the neighborhood for its small businesses and live music.

Brennan did not respond to an interview request.

### DISTRICT 5

Stretching from Benton Way to Glendale Boulevard south of the 101 freeway and north of Beverly Boulevard, District 5 has three candidates running: incumbent Lauren Buisson, Thomas Lipka and Muriel Nacar.

Buisson, an archivist and freelance journalist, has lived in Echo Park for more than 30 years.

She joined the EPNC board last year and has also served on its Ad-Hoc Immigrant Justice, Communications & Outreach and Schools, Libraries & Community Organizations committees.

According to Buisson, her primary concern is affordable housing and tenant protections.

“The building across the street from me is being cosmetically refurbished after decades of neglect, and it is empty of the retirees, working class families and disabled residents who [once] lived there,” she said. “Where have they all gone? How are they faring?”

An associate environmental engineer, Nacar has called Echo Park home for two years.

Lipka did not respond to an interview request.

According to Nacar, she is most interested in community and cultural enrichment.

### DISTRICT 6

Only one candidate, William Shapiro, is running in District 6, which borders downtown Los Angeles south of the 101 and east of Glendale Boulevard. Shapiro did not respond to an interview request.

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**3317 Wood Terrace • Cottage • Call For Price**

You will fall in love with this super quaint 2+1 cottage with a sweet home office too! Located on a lovely street, it offers a roomy living room with hardwood floors, dining area, galley kitchen & laundry room. The patio is perfect for unwinding after a long day. Room for a hot tub too! AC. And this home is in Ivanhoe!

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**3372 Rowena Avenue #2 • Townhouse • Call For Price**

Come fall in this love with this wonderful & much sought after condo in the heart of Los Feliz. Dramatic living room with cathedral ceilings, a fireplace and great windows to let the light in. 2 en-suite bedrooms, a powder bath for guest + a loft for a perfect home office or flexible 3rd bedroom! A very special home.

**FOR LEASE** in *Los Feliz*



**4310 Cedarhurst Circle • Traditional • \$8,200**

One story gated 2+2 Mid-Century home in the hills with west facing sweeping city & hillside views from the LR, den, dining, kitchen, master and patio. Spacious front courtyard patio surrounded by succulents and greenery. Large view facing patio with room to expand to create the ultimate entertainer's dream home.

**IN ESCROW** in *South Pasadena*



**330 Raymondale Ave #3 • Mid-Century • \$729,000**

Located in the Raymond Hills of South Pasadena with Mid-Century flair. 3+2 single story upper unit offers a completely redone kitchen, stainless steel appliances, white quartz counter. Open floor plan with spacious balcony. Large bedrooms. Close to shops, restaurants, transportation and great South Pasadena Schools.

**JUST SOLD** in *Silver Lake*



**2434 Moreno Drive • Traditional • \$1,788,000**

Lovely 2 +1.5 1930's Traditional home in the Moreno Highlands offering scenic views, large yard, home office & family rm. Spacious living rm has a fireplace & hrdwd flrs w expansive city, hillside & mountain views. Lovely DR. Large family rm leads to the yard. 2152 sqft. Bonus rm + Ivanhoe too! Loved by seller for 40+ years!

**JUST SOLD** in *Los Feliz*



**2111 Hollyvista Avenue • Mid-Century • \$1,725,00**

One story gated 2+2 Mid-Century home in the hills with west facing sweeping city & hillside views from the LR, den, dining, kitchen, master and patio. Spacious front courtyard patio surrounded by succulents and greenery. Large view facing patio with room to expand to create the ultimate entertainer's dream home.

**JUST SOLD** in *Rossmoyne, Glendale*



**1315 Moncado Drive • Spanish • \$1,102,000**

Loved & enjoyed by the same family for 50 years and 6 kids later, this charming 3 bed 2 bath Spanish home with a home office & family room is now available to lease! Living room with decorative fireplace and hrdwd floors. Large dining room. Newly tiled eat-in kitchen with new flooring and a new stove. Spacious patio.

*Thank You George, Eileen, and Laura*



I don't usually write reviews but this seemed like a good way to help out our neighborhood. When it came time to sell our home in Los Feliz/Silverlake, we started paying attention to the market to see which local brokers were working the hardest. Everywhere we looked, we saw George and Eileen's signs, and when they sold our neighbors house across-the-street VERY quickly for WELL-over-asking price, we knew we had to give them a call. George, Eileen, & Laura sat down with us at their office and explained very simply what they do best and how they would strategize to sell our house. We walked thru the house and they pointed out some spots that needed some fixing/love. They even suggested a painter/handyman they use a lot as well as one of their favorite designers to help us stage it. (BTW, stage your house, folks!) Laura designed spectacular online-listings and glossy brochures. When it came time to discuss the listing price for the house, George & Eileen suggested a number we thought was too low. My wife and I wanted a much higher price. They explained that the most important thing is to get people in the door. Best. Call. Ever. After one or two weekends, we had a handful of great offers, well-over-asking. We closed a few weeks later with zero problems. Obviously every house is different and the market varies year by year. But George and Eileen and Laura made the process smooth and manageable. They are total pros and we would use them again in a heartbeat."

**Rob Huebel & Holly Hannula 3807 Sunset Dr, Los Angeles, CA 90027**