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Issue 1178 • April 28 - May 4, 2022



Power Couple **Sam & Leah Yebri on What it's Like** **to Run for Office in 2022**

cover story • page 7

IDEAS!

I WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?



Let's come together as a community!

LIVE! WITH MAYOR Lili

COME JOIN US **IN-PERSON** FOR OUR **FIRST LIVE** WITH LILI ON

Monday, May 9th

FROM 7 P.M. - 8 P.M. AT CITY HALL

This is an opportunity for Beverly Hills Mayor Lili Bosse to listen to **YOUR** ideas and what you have on your mind!

IN-PERSON: City Hall Municipal Gallery
455 N Rexford Dr.
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

VIRTUAL: To participate:
beverlyhills.org/LiveWithLili
To watch:
beverlyhills.org/live

WHEN: 7 p.m. – 8 p.m.

No RSVP necessary;
for more information, visit
beverlyhills.org/LiveWithLili



SNAPSHOT



REMEMBERING THE GENOCIDE WILSHIRE BOULEVARD

Approximately 100 people gathered in front of the Turkish Consulate to demand the Turkish Government recognize the Armenian genocide on its 107th anniversary, Sunday. Lieutenant Giovanni Trejo said that BHPD provided traffic control to ensure the safety of all who participated in the protest and received no reports of any significant incidents.

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WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?

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briefs

West Hollywood/Beverly Hills Democratic Club Endorses Candidates

The West Hollywood/Beverly Hills Democratic Club has announced its endorsements for Beverly Hills City Council. City Councilmembers Les Friedman and Bob Wunderlich, and Planning Commission Chair Andy Licht were endorsed by the club.

Jake Manaster was endorsed for City Treasurer and a yes on Measure TL (the term limit initiative).

"The candidates were interviewed by an endorsement committee and recommended to the entire Club membership. All the candidates were impressive. But because of their long held Democratic values and years of activism, plus a wide breathe and depth of City experience and knowledge these candidates were selected," Democratic Club President Lillian Raffel said.

JusticeLA Holds Candidate Forum for Board of Supervisors Race

The JusticeLA coalition (JLA) held a candidate forum for the Board of Supervisors District 3 race on April 20. JLA hopes to "reduce the footprint of incarceration in Los Angeles County and reinvest county dollars into alternatives to incarceration," according to their website.

District 3 includes Beverly Hills and a

large portion of the San Fernando Valley.

The forum focused on equity, racial justice, affordable housing, criminal justice reform, economic justice, and health and human services.

Candidates in attendance included Lindsay Horvath, Bob Hertzberg, Henry Stern, Craig Brill, and Roxanne Hoge, and was moderated by Carter Moon.

One question that was asked of the candidates was if they would commit to closing Men's Central Jail by March 2023, which is one of the demands of JusticeLA.



Lindsay Horvath



Bob Hertzberg



Henry Stern

time in 2024.

When asked if they support universal basic income Stern and Horvath said they do and Hertzberg said he supports giving people capital so they can grow rather than supporting income.

The candidates were also given a minute at the end of the forum to speak.

"I am running because I am very committed to making sure that the vision that has been clearly created by community-based organizations that have been invested in the creation of Measure J, Measure R, and the goals outlined in the ATI [alternative to incarceration] plan are fully realized and that we transform LA County not just for the benefit of residents and community members of LA County but as an example for the rest of the county on how we lead with a care first model," Horvath said.

Measure J dedicates at least 10% of the locally generated unrestricted funding to address the disproportionate impact of "racial injustice" through community investments such as youth development,

job training, small business development, supportive housing services, and alternatives to incarceration.

Measure R is a sales tax intended to finance new transportation projects and programs and accelerate those already in the pipeline.

"I came back for two principal reasons. One, because I was deeply concerned about environmental issues, which I have been working on, and secondly, on this whole issue of justice. I've done a series of bills, whether it was bail, working on the Humprey's case, which we worked on with these guys. Whether it was issues of all these kinds of issues on justice and impacts on people. I created the crime lab. We got a candidate here who claims he got rid of rape kits. Are you kidding me?" Hertzberg said.

The California Supreme Court held that detention based solely because of the inability to pay bail is unconstitutional.

"I am up here in Sacramento. I want to be home with you. It's not just because that's where my roots are and the people I've been trying to serve are, but that's where we have to micromanage this system to some extent on a daily basis, person by person, life by life. And restore some kind of justice in this County," Stern said.

Planning Commission to Discuss Hillel Expansion

The Planning Commission is expected to discuss a proposed project involving the renovation and expansion of Harkham Hillel Hebrew Academy, located at 9120 Olympic Boulevard.

The proposed project was initially considered by the Planning Commission at their meeting on Feb. 24.

Harkham Hillel Hebrew Academy is a private school for early childhood through



Rendition of Hillel Project

eighth grade, with enrollment that ranges from 516 to 721 students.

The project site is located in both the C-3T-2 Commercial Zone and R-4 Multiple-Family Residential Zone. The campus is currently composed of two buildings, generally identified as the Oakhurst building and the Doheny building on the northern portion of the project site along Olympic Boulevard with a partially subterranean parking structure located on the southern portion of the project site and accessed through South Doheny Drive.

An existing outdoor area with a playground and game courts is located on top of the parking structure. The project is primarily focused in the southern portion of the project site where a new gym and classroom building is proposed adjacent to South Oakhurst Drive and an addition

to the existing Doheny building is proposed along South Doheny Drive.

The overall project would include 44 total classrooms and would provide 45 parking spaces within the existing parking area. According to the applicant, the intent of the overall project is to modernize the facilities and to enhance the learning environment. The applicant has stated that the existing buildings are "undersized, irregularly shaped, and lack amenities and features required to best serve current and future students."

At the Feb. Planning Commission meeting, the commissioners expressed concern regarding several aspects of the project including existing and potential traffic impacts; the proposed outdoor game court on the roof of the proposed gym, and whether such feature was appropriate in a residential area; and the accommodation of on-site parking for staff and faculty, and alternative measures to reduce parking demand.

Additionally, the Commission expressed concerns regarding the existing vehicle queueing currently experienced on Olympic Boulevard, a portion of which may be attributable to the existing pick-up and drop-off configuration in front of the school on South Doheny Drive, which can only accommodate three vehicles at a time.

The Planning Commission offered the applicant the opportunity to work further on resolving the issues raised during the meeting.

The applicant has reconsidered the pick-up and drop-off configuration in order to alleviate, as much as possible, the existing queueing on Olympic Boulevard.

"The other components of the project, such as the overall building configuration, staff/faculty parking, and outdoor game court on the roof of the proposed classroom and gym building remain largely as previously proposed with minor modifications necessitated by the proposed changes to the pick-up and drop-off configuration," according to the staff report.

The vehicles would access the new proposed drive aisle by making a right turn into the drive aisle from southbound South Doheny Drive and exit the drive aisle at South Oakhurst Drive. The revised traffic assessment notes three alternatives for vehicles exiting onto South Oakhurst Drive. Alternative one: no Oakhurst Drive turn restrictions. Alternative two: to Oakhurst Drive turn restrictions. Alternative three: tight turn only onto Oakhurst Drive.

According to the staff report, each of the three alternatives results in varying levels of impact to South Oakhurst Drive.

The commission is expected to consider whether the proposed drive aisle is an appropriate option for facilitating the pick-up and drop-offs and identify which of the three alternatives is preferable.

briefs cont. on page 4

briefs cont. from page 3

“The applicant has expressed their preference for Alternative 1 as it would disperse outbound traffic as broadly and quickly as possible and would not cause adverse impacts to the intersection. However, the City’s senior transportation engineer suggests Alternative 3 so as to limit, as much as possible, any impacts to that portion of South Oakhurst Drive that is located south of the egress point,” according to the staff report.

A letter was previously sent to the Planning Commission on behalf of residents on the 400 block of South Oakhurst Drive.

“The proposed project will exacerbate all of the problems we have experienced with traffic, noise, and access. We are already beyond capacity on South Oakhurst, with limited parking and bottleneck traffic at pick-up and drop-off times. For those of us working on zoom, the noise levels throughout the day and, especially, during holidays and school celebrations, is untenable, and exceeds acceptable levels of noise on residential streets. The proposed expansion will mean more traffic and more noise as the size of the building

expands and enrollment increases,” the letter said.

The commission is expected to provide feedback and provide direction to staff to prepare a resolution memorializing the commission’s findings.

Public Works Commission Discusses Cabrillo Reservoir Project

The Public Works Commission discussed alternatives and provided input for the Cabrillo Reservoir project, at their April 14 meeting.

On Dec. 9 City staff and Kennedy/Jenks Consultants, Inc. (KJ) provided two design alternatives, analysis, and probable cost for the Cabrillo reservoir. The first alternative consisted of two 2.15 million gallon circular prestressed concrete reservoir chambers providing a total combined capacity of 4.3 million gallons with a probable cost of approximately \$32.4 million. The second alternative consisted of one rectangular and one trapezoidal concrete reservoir with a total combined capacity of 4.3 million gallons with a probable cost of approximately \$29.7 million.

The cost for both alternatives was sig-

nificantly higher than the cost identified in the Integrated Water Resources Master Plan (IWRMP) of approximately \$14 million, which includes \$2 million for the design and \$12 million for construction.

It was requested at a previous meeting that the Commission provide input on whether to continue design and construction as planned, continue the design and defer construction, or defer design and construction.

The Commission ultimately directed staff to return at a future meeting and present different options and alternatives that maximize water storage and increase



Impossible Impasta

(L to R): Councilmember Les Friedman, Vice Mayor Julian Gold, Mayor Lili Bosse, Impasta Owner and Founder Harrison Litvak, Councilmember John Mirisch and Bob Wunderlich. The City Council honored the very first 60 Second Shout Out business! Impasta, a restaurant located at 459 North Roxbury Dive, at their April 12 meeting. Impasta serves low calorie, low carb, gluten-free veggie pasta, pizza and more.

efficiency in water operations.

In Feb. City staff and the KJ team presented various options to the Commission. The Commission then directed staff to re-



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

DATE: Thursday, May 12, 2022
TIME: 1:30 PM, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard
LOCATION: Meeting will be held in person at: Commission Meeting Room 280A Beverly Hills City Hall 455 North Rexford Drive Beverly Hills, CA 90210 Members of the public may also participate teleconference; details provided below

PROJECT ADDRESS: 9400 West Olympic Boulevard (nearest cross street: South Cañon Drive)

The Planning Commission of the City of Beverly Hills, at its REGULAR meeting on **Thursday, May 12, 2022**, will hold a public hearing beginning at **1:30 PM**, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard to consider a request to renew the following entitlements approved by Planning Commission and associated with the operation of the Avalon Hotel and restaurant at the property located at **9400 Olympic Boulevard:**

Conditional Use Permit (CUP) Renewal. Renewal of a CUP to allow an existing restaurant located on the ground floor of the Avalon Hotel to remain open to the public.

Development Plan Review (DPR) Renewal. Renewal of a DPR to allow for the existing restaurant to continue to operate open air dining within a pool area courtyard in the center of the hotel.

Extended Hours Permit Renewal. Renewal of an Extended Hours Permit allowing for the operation of the existing restaurant and open air dining uses during extended hours from 7 A.M. - 11 P.M. daily on a property located in a Commercial-Residential Transition Area.

This project has been assessed in accordance with the authority and criteria contained in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA, Public Resources Code Sections 21000



et seq.), the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Sections 15000 et seq.), and the environmental regulations of the City. Upon review, the project appears to qualify for a Class 1 Categorical Exemption (Existing Facilities) in accordance with the requirements of Section 15301 of the state CEQA Guidelines. This exemption is applicable to the minor alteration of existing public or private structures involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. Accordingly, the Planning Commission will consider a recommendation to find the project exempt from the environmental review requirements of CEQA.

How to Participate

In the interest of maintaining appropriate social distancing, members of the public can participate in, watch, or listen to the commission meetings through the following methods:

- **In Person:** Submit a speaker card to the Recording Secretary at the meeting.
- **Oral Comment:** Call (310) 288-2288, select Option 1 when prompted. You will be placed on a brief hold, and called upon to make a comment at the appropriate time.
- **Video Comment:** <https://beverlyhills-org.zoom.us/my/bevpublic>, enter passcode: 90210 when prompted.
- **Written Comment:** Email commentPC@beverlyhills.org
- **Audio Only:** Call (310) 288-2288, select Option 2 when prompted.
- **Watch LIVE:** BHTV Channel 10 on Spectrum Cable or www.beverlyhills.org/watchlive

It is recommended that written public comments be submitted to the Planning Commission Recording Secretary by 11:30 AM on the meeting date. Public comments will also be taken during the meeting when the topic is being reviewed by the Planning Commission. Written comments should identify the Agenda Item number or topic in the subject line of the email. In order to be read at the meeting, written comments will be allowed with a maximum of 350 words, which corresponds to approximately three (3) minutes of speaking time. If a comment is received after the agenda item is heard, it will not be a part of the record. Any written comments received by end of the day on Tuesday, May 3, 2022 will be attached to the agenda report regarding this item. Any comments received after Tuesday, May 3, 2022, but prior the public hearing, will be distributed to the Commission under separate cover.

According to Government Code Section 65009, if you challenge the City’s action in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City, either at or prior to the public hearing. Please note that any comments received prior to or during the public hearing will be considered as part of the public record.

If there are any questions regarding this notice, please contact **Alvaro Gomez, AICP, Associate Planner**, in the Planning Division at **(310) 285-1142**, or by email at agomez@beverlyhills.org. Copies of the project plans and associated application materials are on file in the Community Development Department, and can be reviewed by contacting the project planner listed above.

Sincerely,
Alvaro Gomez, AICP, Associate Planner



Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Beverly Hills will make reasonable efforts to accommodate persons with disabilities. If you require special assistance, please call (310) 285-1126 (voice) or (310) 285-6881 (TTY). Providing at least forty-eight (48) hours advance notice will help to ensure availability of services. City Hall, including the Council Chamber and Room 280A, is wheelchair accessible. The City Hall Council Chamber and Room 280A are also equipped with audio equipment for the hearing impaired.

turn at a future meeting and provide more details and cost analyses on those options.

The latest option includes the installation of a pump station forebay at the Cabrillo reservoir. This pumping forebay is intended to provide enhanced redundant fire flow capabilities for the upper-pressure zones of the water system.

It was recommended by staff to go with the pump station forebay option installation along with three Reservoir Management Systems (RMS's) at Coldwater Canyon, Greystone, and Sunset Reservoirs.

The total cost including the design and construction of the pump station forebay and three RMS's is estimated at \$14.2 million.

The City Council will provide further direction regarding the best way to move forward with the Cabrillo Reservoir, at a future meeting.

Bosse Holds First Mayor's Cabinet

Mayor Lili Bosse held her first Mayor's Cabinet meeting on April 11 where she received updates from each chairperson.

Recreation and Parks Commission Vice Chair Myra Lurie discussed several youth programs in the City. Coldwater Canyon Preschool will participate in the Public Works Arbor Day celebration on Friday, April 29. Preschoolers will create a tree-themed art project, talk with an Arborist, and help plant a new Oak tree. Adventure Camp Afterschool Program continues to offer after school enrichment and supervision to children at Horace Mann, Hawthorne, and Beverly Vista.

Lurie also discussed several senior and adult programs. Adult drop-in soccer is now taking place at Beverly High Nickoll Field on Sundays from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. This is a free opportunity for community members to come and practice their soccer skills. Adult Basketball is returning to Beverly High for the spring/summer season. This season will be played Monday-Thursday nights. Adult Wood Bat baseball returns to La Cienega Park on April 30 for a 10-week season, registration began on April 4.

Human Relations Chair Rhoda Sharp discussed the 2020 hate crime report, and the Community Assistance Grant Fund. The Human Relations Commission's Ad Hoc has been working in conjunction with the Charitable Solicitations Commission's Ad Hoc to review all applications and virtual interviews have begun with new agencies who submitted complete applications. Funding supports services that the City offers to vulnerable community members including, but not limited to: seniors, homeless people, food-insecure households, low-income residents, and those with disabilities. Sharp also discussed Autism Awareness Month.

Health and Safety Commission Honors Susan Mendlowitz-Belgrade

For April, Health and Safety Commissioner Erica Felsenthal selected Susan Mendlowitz-Belgrade for the Health and Safety Recognition Program.

As part of the Health and Safety Recognition Program, every other month, a

Commissioner will honor an individual, business, or group who has demonstrated leadership in the field of health and safety issues or made a contribution to the mission of the Health and Safety Commission.

Susan has worked for Jewish Family Service LA for the past 22 years. During the pandemic, Susan took on a leadership role as Senior Director of Senior and Multipurpose Centers of JFS. She is the former Director of the Freda Mohr Multipurpose Center. Her previous experience with JFS includes managing the Adult Day Health Cares and Social Day Care Centers, oversight of the Private Care Fee for Service Concierge Program, Registry for Home Care Providers, Conservatorship program as well as the Jewish Free Burial Program.

Currently, Susan provides oversight of four Senior Centers as well as the Life Office Activities Program at Park La Brea and the Bar Center at the Beach. She works closely with the Beverly Hills Human Services Community Services Department and worked with Beverly Hills Rent Stabilization Department to help qualified Beverly Hills residents receive rental assistance during the pandemic. She also facilitates the Café Europa Socialization program for Holocaust survivors.

"Ms. Belgrade received the Dora and Charles Mesnick Award for Excellence in Senior Programming, served as a board member of the Mid-City West Community Council, Menorah Housing and the Mid-City Homeless Coalition. Susan has a strong sense of community and vision in helping the older disenfranchised population," according to the staff report.

Health and Safety Commission Discusses Fire Department Peer Support Program

The Health and Safety Commission discussed an informational update on the Beverly Hills Fire Department's Peer Support Program (PSP) at their Monday meeting.

According to the staff report, research has shown Firefighters and other First Responders are at an increased risk for mental health issues such as anxiety, depression, PTSD, and suicidal thoughts. The Fire Department has developed a Peer Support Program to assist the membership and their families from the stresses that are associated with the job.

The Fire Department currently has about 11 members ranging from Firefighter to Captain, trained and available all hours of the day for the membership.

The initial training to become a Peer Support Member involves a 32 hour accredited class.

Along with the Peer Support Members, the program is overseen by a Mental Health Provider who acts as the Department's Clinical Director. The Clinical Director provides continuing education to the team, fields calls from members wishing to have further evaluation, and refers membership to in person mental health providers if needed. The Clinical Director also has access to a Crisis Response Team that can be activated if the Depart-

ment encounters an incident such as serious injury or line of duty death.

"The BHFD Peer Support Team is committed to providing sincere, confidential help to any member of the Department that may need assistance. The goal of our program is to be proactive in our approach so that we can prevent the detriments of stress affecting the lives and well-being of our membership. Using this model, we continually strive to better our program through training, new research, and additional resources that may benefit our membership and their families," according to the staff report.

Human Relations Commission Discusses Engagement Project

At their April 21 meeting the Human Relations Commission discussed the preliminary concept of the Beverly Hills Unified School District (BHUSD) Engagement Project.

Chair Rhoda Sharp presented on the Project during the Jan. Commission meeting. The goal of this project is to create a public service announcement that emphasizes an anti-hate message to school-age children. The public service announcement will then be used as an educational resource in the Beverly Hills Unified School District curriculum and could potentially be shared with other school districts across the state and nation.

The Commission voted to explore the concept further to identify a way to best execute this project.

At the Feb. 17 meeting Sharp invited director George Nicholas to present his proposal for the project, which included an animated short film. Nicholas proposed that the project would utilize a professional animator, and voice actors, and estimated the project to cost a minimum of \$100,000.

Some concerns regarding the budget and lack of student engagement were raised.

Community Groups to Host Upcoming Candidate Forums

The following forums will be held in the Beverly Hills City Council Chambers and live-streamed on Beverly Hills Television (BHTV 10) and at beverlyhills.org/live: The Beverly Hills North Homeowners Association and The Municipal League of Beverly Hills on Thursday, April 28, 7-9 p.m.; Southwest Beverly Hills Homeowners Association Tuesday, May 3, 7-9:30 p.m.; and the Beverly Hills Active Adult Club will host a candidate forum at Roxbury Community Center on Monday, May



Business with Bosse

(L to R): Tommy's Beverly Hills owner Tommy Salvatore and Mayor Lili Bosse at the first "Business with Bosse" on Monday.

9 at 1 p.m. to discuss topics of interest to the senior community.

All forums will be periodically re-broadcast on BHTV 10 leading up to Election Day and available on-demand anytime at beverlyhills.org/elections.

Manaster to Hold In-N-Out Campaign Event

Treasurer Candidate Jake Manaster will be holding a campaign event with an In-N-Out food truck on Sunday, May 1 from 12 to 2 p.m. The event is located outside of 300 South Bedford Drive.

Next BH Discusses Voter Initiative, Finalizes Time Capsule

The Next BH Committee discussed a voter initiative that they intend to pursue called "You Decide What's Next", at their April 21 meeting.

The Committee is launching a social media campaign this week to encourage people to get registered, educate themselves, and vote. The Committee will also be pushing the message to register and vote at places like the farmers' market and will most likely do something in conjunction with Beverly High.

"It's very important that the younger generation register and vote, and educate themselves," Chair Tiffany Davis said.

The Committee also finalized the time capsule project that they have been working on for several months.

The Time Capsule was an idea that started with the Committee because they thought that 2020 and 2021 were very historic years and they wanted to put something together to leave for the next generation.

The Committee collected memorabilia and put together a scrapbook to leave inside the time capsule. It was officially dedicated to live at City Hall for the next 15 years. They also made some predictions about what will happen in the next 15 years and where everyone will be.

"Hopefully there is a Next Beverly Hills Committee in 15 years that's going strong, and they will open it and reflect back on this time," Davis said.

--Briefs Compiled by Danielle Berjikian

EIGHT QUESTIONS WITH THE CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES - PART II

By Danielle Berjikian

Beverly Hills Weekly received these answers after its deadline. For the other candidates, see issue #1177.

Why are you running for City Council?

Shiva Bagheri: I have many different reasons for running for City Council. One of the reasons is I believe ALL of the City Councilmen have broken their constitutional oath of office. I believe they abused their power by attacking my freedom rally with their draconian ordinances to crush it. They had the former chief of police try to coerce, shame, and intimidate me from having them along with calling my landlord to try to get me evicted from my apartment. If they can do this to me, they can do this to ANYONE! I want to protect the people here from this ever happening again! I'm sick of the lies and believe the public has a right to know the truth. No one will be able to buy me off because I only serve God.

Vera Markowitz: In wake of the many scandals that have plagued the Beverly Hills City Council, I am running with the goal of restoring the integrity of the council and rebuilding public trust. If elected, I pledge to enact sweeping reforms to ensure that the Beverly Hills City Council meet the highest standards for ethics, fairness, and accuracy. I will work to ensure a more transparent, accessible and efficient city government. We must return Beverly Hills to a great place to live, work and raise a family.

Sharon Nazarian: I am running for Beverly Hills City Council to bring a much needed fresh perspective to resolve issues because I am a

problem solver who gets things done! I am accessible, creative, and innovative. I will govern with the highest level of ethics and do what is right. I want to unify our community through a residents first approach. I am experienced, have energy and will work hard to be an advocate for our residents, small businesses and community.

How would you evaluate the job the current City Council is doing?

Bagheri: [Mayor Lili] Bosse has admitted to me that every one of them are Democrats. They voted for the horrible things that are happening in California. How can I trust them to fix things? We need to fix core issues and not just the symptoms. The core issues are the bad policies like prop 47 and no bail for criminals. I'm a victim of violent crime and the police officers told me that if I press charges that the person that assaulted me and took my phone will be let out of jail and know where I live. That doesn't protect victims. That only protects criminals. They voted against the no confidence of George Gascon but what does that mean? If there are no actions taken it's just lip service. This guy should be sued for aiding and abetting criminals!

Markowitz: The City Council has failed us. The council has been derelict in their duties and cost taxpayers over \$15 million dollars to settle lawsuits against the city for discrimination and seen a mass exodus of over 50 rank and file police officers and support staff. The effects of which are being felt on our community as reflected in the rise of crime and the reduction of tax revenues.

Nazarian: The current City Council needs to be more proactive instead of reactive. Plans and policies need to be implemented instead of only being discussed or voted upon. We need more oversight and need to see more results.

Had you been on the Council, would you have voted to support the One Beverly Hills Project (or for the incumbent candidates, why did you vote the way you voted)?

Bagheri: Being a public servant is supposed to serve what the public wants. Has there been any polls or surveys done to see what the residents feel about this project?

Markowitz: I support the One Beverly Hills Project.

Nazarian: It is already approved and voted on. My job on the council will be to work on building the project as safely as possible so it will have the least impact on the school, surrounding neighborhoods, and businesses. I want to be as helpful to ensure the project is built without delay but in the safest manner possible.

Will you vote to approve the Cheval Blanc project as proposed?

Bagheri: My answer is the same as #3.

Markowitz: The current proposal is under review and being amended. The current proposal has been modified and not yet open for public review. Given this, I cannot comment on a project that is not available for public consideration.

Nazarian: This project, as well as all projects, must go through their due process. I need to do my due diligence and ensure I hear all viewpoints and have sufficient information prior to making any decision. I always say that knowledge is the key, and the current City Council needs to better inform the community about the process and provide updates regarding the specifics of the projects being proposed. The public, including myself, does not have enough information.

A three-term term limit initiative is on the ballot, do you support it? Why or why not?

Bagheri: I think the public has a right to vote for whomever they want. My answer is no.

Markowitz: I support term limits. The idea of citizen legislators is at the very foundation of our constitution. As we see with the current council and governments across our country, in recent years professional politicians have come under fire and been marred in corruption scandal after ethical scandal. Incumbents become indebted to special interest groups and developers. Term limits would help to end the influence of special interest and developer money in our local government.

Nazarian: I support it wholeheartedly. Two terms are long enough for City Council Members in a small town like Beverly Hills. A residents' first approach can be lost when serving longer than two terms. We need fresh and new ideas. When one serves for too long, there is a chance that they lose touch as well as their connection with the community at a local city council level. That's an important part of why I am running. I am not a career politician. I will bring fresh and new ideas. I believe that the residents of Beverly Hills are extremely intelligent and will vote for the candidate that they believe will do the best job.

How would you evaluate the job City Manager George Chavez is doing?

Bagheri: I really don't have an opinion about this because I don't have enough information at this time.

Markowitz: With all due respect to Mr. Chavez and I appreciate his years of public service, I think it is in the best interest of the taxpayers of Beverly Hills to seek new leadership for the position of City Manager. Mr. Chavez has become complacent in the performance of his responsibilities. From his failure to properly vet the previous and current police chiefs to his lack of execution of modernizing Beverly Hills' fiber optics which resulted in wasting tax payer money without completion, the City Manager has been derelict in his duties.

Nazarian: Mr. Chavez is doing a good

job under the circumstances he inherited. I respect that he has institutional knowledge that is important in understanding the past. That knowledge will be important when preparing for the future. He is someone I look forward to partnering with to support improvements in Beverly Hills.

What would you say is the single biggest issue facing the City at this time?

Bagheri: The biggest issue is high crime. First we had massive EDD fraud and the stores were just taking the illegal money. Now it's the smash and grabs. We need to make the politicians that are putting our lives in danger accountable! If the city can use ordinance to crush my first amendment rights they can certainly use them to block these horrible policies!

Markowitz: The City is facing a multitude of problems. To single out any one issue as greater than any other would only serve to divide us. The root of the problems we face in Beverly Hills however can all be traced back to the failed leadership of our current City Council. Their lack of ethics, fairness and accountability have created not only a toxic environment in city hall but created uncertainty amongst tax payers, stakeholders and small business owners. The City Council is responsible for managing not only the budget and city services but promoting business', ensuring the safety of the public and their property, but also the councils other ancillary functions, including transportation, information technology, clerical and administration, human resources and promoting the general well being of the residents of Beverly Hills. The job of a council member requires not only strong political skills to work successfully but also strong people skills to help promote Beverly Hills as one of the finest cities in the world.

Nazarian: Public safety and security, especially the smash and grabs, home invasion robberies, and burglaries are the biggest issues facing our community. We are being targeted. We want to walk down the street and not feel like we are going to be the next crime statistic. We need action now! I want to hire more qualified police officers, place more specialized and undercover units to address crime, proactively deter criminal activity by utilizing technology, have dedicated Police substations at the two new Metro stops and push to have our own City Prosecutor so we hold criminals accountable.

What one thing do you want the voters to know about you before they cast their ballot?

Bagheri: I'm a constitutionalist. I'm for less taxes, government overreach, regulation/bureaucracy, and ridiculous permits. The government is supposed to work FOR the people and not AGAINST the people. That's why I started the Beverly Hills Freedom Rally! We need major reform!

Markowitz: I have lived here in Beverly Hills for over 50 years. This city is where I raised my children and the city I

candidates cont. on page 7

coverstory

POWER COUPLE

Sam & Leah Yebri on What it's Like to Run for Office in 2022

By Danielle Berjikian

Sam Yebri is running for Los Angeles City Council's 5th district, which surrounds Beverly Hills, and includes Westwood, West LA, Century City, and the Beverly Center area. The primary election is June 7. We caught up with him and his wife Leah to hear about life on the campaign trail.

Leah: You have four children and Sam is running for LA City Council, what's that like?

It's been hard of course, but also very beautiful and meaningful to watch because I am watching Sam in front of my eyes living his dream. And that's not something everybody can say or do. Watching him be so passionate and so caring about our City, children [and] future is very empowering. It inspires me to help him [and] it inspires me to put up with all the difficult aspects.

Sam: How did you and Leah meet?

We met through mutual friends more than a decade ago and we shared so much in common that we hit it off immediately.

Leah: On your wedding website, you said it took Sam quite a while to ask you out for the first time?

I met him in February, and he didn't ask me out until after Passover. It was after April that he asked me out.



“Watching [Sam] be so passionate and so caring about our City, children [and] future is very empowering. It inspires me to help him [and] it inspires me to put up with all the difficult aspects”
—Leah Yebri

Sam: What have you learned about yourself over the course of your city council Campaign?

What I've learned is how much I love this City and how much Leah and I and our families owe to this great City. So being able to try and give back now as a candidate, after having given back as a nonprofit leader over so many years, seems like such a special opportunity. This City has so many diverse communities and we are all struggling in the same way with the issues of crime and homelessness that are exploding throughout Los Angeles.

Leah: Do you think that Sam's passion for city government has influenced you to follow civic affairs more closely?

Definitely, he's inspired me to become more active, to pay attention to detail and I thank him for that.

Sam: How much do your kids ask you about what you're doing?

We sat down our older kids when we first decided to do

this and there's now been a fury of questions, including some of their friends from school about what a councilmember can do. And the questions are really profound. ‘Why are there people who are sleeping in our parks?’ ‘Why can't they live in a home like we do?’ And we tell

them about the powers of a councilmember, including things that they are patient about, like our parks and library. And they are excited to learn more.

Leah: Often the candidate's spouse takes attacks more personally than the candidates themselves. Do you find this to be true?

Absolutely. I try to protect Sam with my life. When I hear anything negative, I get very defensive.

Sam: You and Leah have always been involved in a number of pro-Israel causes. Tell us about that.

Sam: Our Judaism really informs every aspect of our lives and our values. And that includes our passion for a strong U.S.-Israel relationship. Leah especially has a passion for helping vulnerable people in Israel through different charities like WIZO, which is the Women's Zionist Organization, and through a hospital in Israel that we support called Shaare Zedek Medical Center in Jerusalem. And I've been active in activism in the political realm.

Leah: We try to be social media warriors too. Well, I do. It's very hard to see negative comments about Israel on social media but there's so much of it out there. I try very hard to defend Israel.



(L to R): Benjamin, Sam, Olivia (bottom), Joshua, Leah, and Elizabeth Yebri

Leah: What's one thing you want people to know about your husband that they may not realize?

I really want people to know that he is very real in everything that he says and does. He's not a wishy-washy fake person. What he says, he means. What he says he's going to do, he's actually going to do. He's a fantastic father and husband. Which is also very rare. He manages to do both really well and he also manages to run a perfect campaign in my eyes.

Is there anything else you want to share with the readers?

Sam: How important this election [on June 7] is for the City that we all love. We encourage everyone to get informed, get engaged, and go vote because we can actually make a big difference for our

kids, for great neighborhoods, and for this great City that we all love.

Leah: I think Sam is actually the only candidate that can make a change.



“So being able to try and give back now as a candidate, after having given back as a nonprofit leader over so many years, seems like such a special opportunity”
—Sam Yebri

candidates cont. from page 6

love. My work with Team Beverly Hills has given me valuable insight into the inner workings of Beverly Hills and the unique challenges our city faces. As the co-founder and director of “Just In Case BH”, I have fought to keep our community safe and prepared for any emergency we may face. I have worked tirelessly for three years on behalf of the citizens of Beverly Hills creating a program for emergency preparedness for the entire city that we can rely on and be proud of. Just in Case BH includes having meeting places, communication centers and everything to keep all our residents safe

during a large emergency. The police and fire will not be able to get to residence for a number of days because they're dealing in the large emergencies. Our program allows us to protect each other. It includes having a manual that tells you where to go and what to do, including having a real time app and a number of other resources so that every individual will be kept safe in those emergencies.

Nazarian: I have lived in Beverly Hills for over 30 years. I raised my family here. I love this town and will care for it with all my heart and strength because I want to see it as a place where our parents, children and grandchildren can all live and enjoy. I am thoughtful,

trusted and a balanced leader with over 20 years of dedicated community and civic experience. I am a clinical psychologist by education so listening to people is at my core. I am also a unique candidate because I have worked in LA County and Beverly Hills as a commissioner. I understand governance at different levels and the issues we are facing today such as homelessness, the mental health and substance abuse crisis, and public safety. I am able to build consensus and unity around issues and policies because I am a proven and effective leader as well as a mental health professional. I listen, I evaluate and I find solutions, working collaboratively with the community

whenever possible. I will bring much needed diversity to the City Council in thought, action, and representation. I will have a residents' first approach and will find new ways to help local businesses flourish in this trying environment. But most importantly, public safety and security will always be my number one priority. We must be more proactive in all areas of public safety to continually keep our city safe. I will work closely with our residents to build consensus on behalf of our community. I am thorough, thoughtful, and best of all, I get things done! I'd be honored to have your vote!



BHHS Baseball Team Defeats Hawthorne, Leuzinger

By Steven Herbert

Myles Smith went 4-for-5, drove in three runs and pitched a five-hitter as Beverly High defeated Hawthorne, 8-1, in an Ocean League baseball game at Hawthorne April 7.

Smith singled and scored on Jay Cukier's single in the first inning. Smith's two-out triple drove in Cameron Singer, who singled, and freshman Joe Rendon, who walked, in the second.

Smith had an RBI single in the seventh as the Normans combined singles by Jaxon Tonley, Jaden Rost and Rendon, two walks and an error for five runs.

Beverly Hills out-hit the Cougars, 11-5. Smith struck out five and walked three. Hawthorne scored its run in the first.

Beverly Hills 15, Leuzinger 5

Freshman Cameron Park and Cukier both drove in four runs, had two hits and scored twice and Tonley and three relievers combined on a two-hitter in an Ocean League game shortened to six innings because of the 10-run rule April 19 at La Cienega Park.

Tonley had three RBIs and three hits

and Rendon also had three hits as the Normans out-hit the Olympians, 15-2.

Tonley allowed one hit and one run over 3 1/3 innings, striking out two, walking four and hitting a batter.

Beverly Hills freshman right-hander Asher Miller struck out three batters and walked one in 1 2/3 hitless innings.

The Normans (7-7, 5-1 in league play) took a 12-0 lead with four runs in first, seven in the second and one in the third. Leuzinger scored once in the fourth and four times in the fifth. Beverly Hills scored three runs in the sixth to end the game.

What's Next?

The Normans are scheduled to play host to Centennial today and Morningside Friday in Ocean League games at La Cienega Park beginning at 3:15 p.m.

Softball

Beverly Hills 19, Morningside 2

Ryan Cukier and Karely Molina each drove in five runs for the Normans in an Ocean League game April 5 at Beverly High called after 4 innings because of the

10-run rule.

Molina had three hits and freshman Tali Goldkorn, Maya Rendon and Samantha Zide two each as the Normans out-hit the Monarchs, 12-3.

Beverly Hills scored 11 runs in the first, two in the second and six in the third. Morningside scored both its runs in the third.

Elena Serrano pitched a three-hitter, striking out three and walking four.

Girls' Track and Field

Ocean League Prelims

Beverly Hills junior Eugena Lee posted the fastest time in the 400 meters (1:03.56) and the second-fastest in the 200 (27.89) while Norman freshman Ava Hollander

won the long jump with a leap of 14 feet, 3 3/4 inches Monday at Centennial High.

Beverly Hills freshman Sarah Lea Dahan had the third-fastest times in both the 100 (14.01) and 200 (29.85).

Boys' Track and Field

Ocean League Prelims

Beverly Hills junior Arian Naim posted the fastest time in the 400 (52.06) Monday at Centennial High.

What's Next?

The Normans will compete in the Ocean League Finals today at Centennial High.

sports cont. on page 9

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MEASURE TL: TERM LIMITS

General Municipal Election is June 7, 2022 – Measure TL will be on the ballot

Voters in Beverly Hills will consider an ordinance that, if approved, would establish a total three term limit during one's lifetime for the offices of City Councilmember and City Treasurer. If the ordinance is not approved, term limits will not be established for the respective offices.

VOTING INFORMATION

WWW.BEVERLYHILLS.ORG/ELECTIONS
OR WWW.LAVOTE.GOV

Beverly Hills City Clerk's Office: (310) 285-2400

Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk:
(800) 815-2666

Look for your Vote-by-Mail Ballot:
Week of May 9, 2022

Election Date: June 7, 2022

Track your ballot:
WHEREAMYBALLOT.SOS.CA.GOV

SAMPLE BALLOT

Term Limit Measure:

Shall an ordinance be adopted by the City of Beverly Hills to establish a total three term limit during one's lifetime for the offices of City Councilmember and City Treasurer in the City of Beverly Hills?

YES

NO

LEARN MORE

For more information, please visit beverlyhills.org/measureTL.

Girls' Lacrosse

Lakewood 6, Beverly Hills 5

Freshman Noya Spinder scored five

goals and junior Jory Kanaan made 18 saves for the Normans in a nonleague game at Lakewood April 25.

Kate Chung and Stephanie Morales each had an assist for Beverly Hills (2-

10). Norman sophomore Harper Flynn fielded five ground balls.

Steven Herbert has covered Beverly Hills High School sports for Beverly Hills

Weekly since 1999. He has also covered college and professional sports for the Los Angeles Times and The Washington Post. He can be reached at (786) 201-2460 or by email at stvherbert@aol.com.

detention&arrestsummary

Beverly Hills Weekly received the information that appears below from the Beverly Hills Police Department. This information is released each week to the public. We assume no responsibility for errors or omissions in the Detention and Arrest Summary.

ESCALERA, ISSAC, 32, arrested on 4/6/22 for having an outside felony warrant.

JOHNSON, CYDNEY, KAYLA, 24, arrested on 4/7/22 for assault, domestic violence/inflicting corporal injury (spouse or cohabitant abuse).

HARRIS, MICHAEL, JEROME, 43, arrested on 4/8/22 for possession of drug paraphernalia, resisting, delaying, or obstructing any public officer, peace officer, or emergency medical technician, and having an outside felony warrant.

MARICAL, JEAN, MANUEL, 32, arrested on 4/9/22 for driving while license is suspended for a DUI, driving under the influence of alcohol, and driving under the influence of alcohol over .08.

TAYLOR, ERNEST, FOSTER, 60, arrested on 4/9/22 for having an outside felony warrant and having an outside misde-

meanor warrant.

JARAMILLO, ROGELIO, MENDEZ, 41, arrested on 4/9/22 for amount of defacement, damage or destruction is \$400 or more, and public intoxication.

WINIC, TODD, J, arrested on 4/9/22 for possession of drug paraphernalia, and possession of meth/etc.

GRANT, DEON, LAMAR, 28, arrested on 4/9/22 for possession of drug paraphernalia, receiving stolen property, and having a BHPD misdemeanor arrest warrant.

ABER, MAYSON, KAI, 27, arrested on 4/9/22 for battery - use of force or violence upon another person.

SAVAGE, PRINCESS, 21, arrested on 4/10/22 for driving under the influence of alcohol.

MORALES REYES, MITZI, LYNN, 41, arrested on 4/10/22 for possession of controlled substances, drugs, etc where prisoners are kept, and having an outside felony warrant.

CASTILLO, ALBERTO, 53, arrested on 4/10/22 for possession of drug paraphernalia and driving while license is suspend-

ed for a DUI.

FRANKLIN, KERRION, RASHAD, 33, arrested on 4/10/22 for carrying a concealed firearm upon person, loaded firearm in public, person, or vehicle, having an outside felony warrant, and having an outside misdemeanor warrant.

CARRIER, KATELYN, EFAW, 33, arrested on 4/10/22 for driving under the influence with blood alcohol over .08.

MENDEZ, EDGAR, SAMUEL, 28, arrested on 4/10/22 for causing a fire of property.

FRENCH, CHRISTOPHER, JOHN, 44, arrested on 4/10/22 for showing false ID to a police officer, and trespassing of real property.

BROWN, BOBBY, LEE, 50, arrested on 4/11/22 for littering and distribution of written materials upon public property and vehicles.

CORTEZ, BRANDON, 29, arrested on 4/12/22 for committing mail theft.

ALVAREZ, EVELYN, 29, arrested on 4/12/22 for committing mail theft.

PORTILLOBARRIEN-

TOS, JORGE, JEOVANI, 32, arrested on 4/11/22 for driving while license is suspended, lighting equipment of required type, and maintain in good working order.

CONTRERAS, DESTINEE, MICHELLE, 24, arrested on 4/12/22 for possession of a controlled substance, and resisting or obstructing a public officer.

MARTINEZ, ANDREA, DAVINA, 23, arrested on 4/12/22 for possession of a controlled substance, resisting or obstructing a public officer, DUI causing injury: and driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs.

STALLWORTH, ROBERT, KEVON, 22, arrested on 4/12/22 for driving unlicensed upon highway, no proof of insurance, stickers, and objects obstructing view.

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At the World Famous Witch's House

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 2022

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM



Michael J. Libow

invites you to meet Bob and support his re-election to Beverly Hills City Council, along with our Police Officers Association and many others.

RSVP to:

www.robertwunderlich.com/witches

Paid for by Robert Wunderlich for City Council 2022 ID#1440499

Next stop: more subway.

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

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE
Construction activities to build the Wilshire/Rodeo Station continue primarily underground at Wilshire Bl and Rodeo Bl. Material deliveries will continue during day and evening hours.

TRAFFIC ALERT
From 9am–4pm, Wilshire Bl may be reduced to two lanes in each direction between El Camino Dr and Crescent Dr.

MEETING HOURS
Community Construction Update webinars are typically held virtually on the first Wednesday of the month, from 12–1pm. Please join us on May 4 and June 1, 2022, at noon. Please visit metro.net/purple for additional details.

CONTACT US

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M Metro

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any) shall be licensed pursuant to California law for the trades necessary to perform the Work called for in the Contract Documents.

Each bid must strictly conform with and be responsive to the Contract Documents as defined in the General Conditions.

In accordance with California Public Contract Code Section 22300, the Owner will permit the substitution of securities for any moneys withheld by the Owner to ensure performance under the Contract.

The successful Bidder and its subcontractors shall pay all workers on the Project not less than the general prevailing rate of per diem wages and the general prevailing rate for holiday and overtime work as determined by the Director of the Department of Industrial Relations, State of California, for the type of work performed and the locality in which the work is to be performed

within the boundaries of the District, pursuant to sections 1770 et seq. of the California Labor Code. Prevailing wage rates are available from the District or on the Internet at: <<http://www.dir.ca.gov>>. Bidders and Bidders' subcontractors shall comply with the registration and qualification requirements pursuant to sections 1725.5 and 1771.1 of the California Labor Code.

The Contractor and all subcontractors shall furnish certified payroll records as required pursuant Labor Code section 1776 directly to the Labor Commissioner in accordance with Labor Code section 1771.4 on at least on a monthly basis (or more frequently if required by the District or the Labor Commissioner) and in a format prescribed by the Labor Commissioner. Monitoring and enforcement of the prevailing wage laws and related requirements will be performed by the Labor Commissioner/ Department of Labor Standards Enforcement (DLSE).

As security for its Bid, each bidder shall provide with its Bid form a bid bond issued by an admitted surety insurer on the form provided by the District or a cashier's check or a certified check, drawn to the order of the Beverly Hills Unified School District, in the amount of ten percent (10%) of the total bid price. The bid security shall be a guarantee that the Bidder shall, within seven (7) calendar days after the date of the Notice of Award, enter into a contract with the District for the performance of the services as stipulated in the bid.

The successful Bidder shall be required to furnish a 100% Performance Bond and a 100% Payment Bond if it is awarded the contract for the Project.

Where applicable (including projects receiving funding under the State School Facilities Program), bidders must meet the requirements

set forth in Public Contract Code Section 10115 et seq., Military and Veterans Code Section 999 et seq. and California Code of Regulations, Title 2, Section 1896.60 et seq. regarding Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise ("DVBE") Programs.

No bidder may withdraw their bid for a period of ninety (90) days after the date set for the opening of bids. The District reserves the right to reject any and all bids or to waive irregularities in any bid.

Contract Documents are available on April 29, 2022 for review at the District's website: https://www.bhusd.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?u-REC_ID=31867&type=d&pREC_ID=1074500

The District shall award the Contract, if it awards it at all, to the lowest responsive responsible bidder based on the base bid amount.

CLASSIFIEDS To place your ad, call 310-887-0788

100- ANNOUNCEMENTS

Garage Sale Saturday, 4/30 and Sunday 5/1 1032 7th Street, Santa Monica. 9 AM to 3 PM.

Description of items: Costume Jewelry Boutique for Mothers Day. Antiques and Uniques for the home. Decor, Art, Books, Card Table, Housewares, Kitchenware, Glassware, linens, Gently used.

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115-CEMETERY

Hollywood Hills Mt. Sinai Cemetery. Located in Maimonides section. Rare find in sold out section. Endowment and transfer fees included. \$18,000 obo. (818) 515-8345

Mount Sinai Hollywood Hills. 2 plots side by side located in Maimonides section Endowment and Transfer Fees included \$ 36,000. Sold out section near the entrance and a large tree. 818-585-0810

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Pacific View Memorial Park, Corona del Mar Meadowlawn South, Plot 179-F (eligible to convert to double depth). Plot is adjacent to friend and veteran captain of John Wayne's yacht. \$16,000, (907) 903-5497 or 1bigdoggie@gmail.com.

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