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# Beverly Hills Weekly

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Issue 1238 • June 22 - June 28, 2023



## Running Rotary

**Incoming Rotary Club President Lillian Raffel Discusses Her Goals**

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OUR DATA SPEAKS VOLUMES



# briefs

## County Registrar Upholds Election Results

The Los Angeles County Registrar Recorder has completed the review of the ballots that were challenged as part of the May 23 LVMH election and will uphold the certified results.

A total of 122 ballots were challenged by recount observers and were reviewed by a panel consisting of Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk Dean Logan, Chief Deputy Jeremy Gray, and Assistant Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk Monica Flores.

According to a letter sent to the applicant, in their review, the panel found that all ballots challenged were properly processed by County staff and determined that the original decisions to count or not count each ballot are in alignment with California Elections Code.

Some challenges included Interpretation of Voter Intent, Unsigned Provisional Ballot, Vote by Mail No Voter Signature, Vote by Mail Multiple Ballots in One Envelope, Vote by Mail Missing or Incorrect Address on Envelope, Vote by Mail Voter Registered at a Business Address, Vote by Mail Non-Matching Signature, and Vote by Mail Ballots Not Received on Time.

The certified election results are final, unless a lawsuit is filed. The cost for the recount totaled approximately \$27,000 for both days, paid for by applicant Sunny Sassoon.

## North Portal Station Price Now Exceeds \$134 Million

A June 7 Metro Purple Line Extension meeting revealed that the cost for the Beverly Drive entrance to the Metro D Line (Purple) Wilshire/Rodeo station now exceeds \$132 million and the City Council will need to decide whether to continue the project or spend the money on other improvements.

In Nov. of 2020 the City entered into a settlement agreement with Metro to Construct a North Portal and the City Council selected Beverly Drive to be the location.

The construction is tentatively scheduled for Jan. 2025 and expected to last until March 2027.

The current proposal is to build a 170 foot walkway from the concourse level of the Wilshire/Rodeo Station to the North Portal at the northwest corner of Beverly Drive and Wilshire Boulevard.

Per the settlement agreement, each party pays 50% of the North Portal total project budget. If costs exceed \$78.5 million, the parties are to meet and confer to develop strategies to either reduce costs or increase contributions.

At a future study session, the City Council is expected to discuss whether to continue the North Portal Project, or pursue the First/Last Mile improvements. If the Council opts to discontinue the project, there will only be a South Portal at Wilshire and Reeves.

## BHUSD Saving \$600k on DSA Costs

At last Tuesday meeting the Board of Education approved a ratification of purchase orders in the amount of \$592,579 for the General Fund, \$96,696 for Measure BH Fund, and \$21,340 for Capital Facilities Fund, and the ratification of change orders totaling \$8,143,577. Board member Mary Wells pulled this item to emphasize that the District is saving upwards of \$600,000 from switching to a contract with Sandy Pringle Associates, Inc. for DSA Inspector of Record Services (DSA-IOR).

DSA-IOR services are funded from Measure E and Measure BH General Obligation bond funds. The hourly rate for this is \$98. Under the previous Team Concept Development Services (TCDS) contract, the District was billed \$188 for this same service.

“Essentially it’s about half the cost if you’re assuming that they’re working the exact same number of hours. For El Rodeo for this year that’s about \$276,000 the difference between if we had the same number of hours for the previous inspector versus the inspector we have now,” Assistant Superintendent of Business Services Raphael Guzman said.

It would have cost a difference of over \$600,000 combined for all projects had the district stayed with TCDS.

“I just wanted to clarify that the savings look like we saved \$639,000 by switching to Sandy Pringle based on hourly rates,” Wells said.

## Planning Commission to Discuss Density Bonus Permit for 55 North La Cienega

At their Thursday meeting the Planning Commission is expected to discuss a Development Plan Review and Density Bonus Permit to allow for the construction of a new five-story, mixed use development with ground floor commercial uses, 105 residential units, and rooftop restrooms at 55 North La Cienega Boulevard.



Proposed 55 North La Cienega Boulevard Project

The project site is located in the City’s Mixed Use Overlay Zone, which was established to provide areas where mixed use development is allowed in order to increase the availability of housing in Beverly Hills.

The project site is currently developed with a vacant commercial building with a surface parking lot that was formerly used for the restaurant “The Stinking Rose”.

The applicant is proposing to remove all existing site improvements to facilitate the construction of the development, which includes approximately 18,986 square feet of ground floor commercial space, along with 105 units for rental above the ground floor, including 11 units reserved for very low income households. An outdoor living space with restrooms for the residential portion of the project is proposed on the rooftop of the building. Additional outdoor living space is provided within balconies located throughout the upper levels of the project. Parking for all uses would be provided within a subterranean parking structure providing a total of 196 spaces for both the residential and commercial use.

Since the project is expected to provide 11 affordable units set aside for very low-income households, which is about 15.7% of base density, the total density bonus the applicant is entitled to is 50%, resulting in a total of 105 units for both market rate and affordable units.

In addition to a density bonus, state density bonus law requires that the City provide at least one incentive to each project that qualifies for a density bonus. These are intended to result in cost reductions so that the developer is able to provide some affordable housing. Projects with at least 15% of the base units designated for very low income may request up to three development incentives.

The incentives/concessions requested by the applicant are the following:

- Building height - The project site is subject to a maximum allowable height of 45’. The applicant is requesting to allow for a total maximum building height of 66’-6.

- Number of Stories - The project site is subject to a maximum of three stories. The applicant is requesting to allow an additional three stories, to include the fourth and fifth story of the project, as well as the proposed 450 square feet of rooftop restrooms, which is counted as a sixth story to the building.

- Rear Setbacks - The applicant is requesting to allow for a reduction in the required rear setback on the third and fourth floor so that the balconies encroach 4’-0” into the required setback area. The proposal would reduce the required setback on the third and fourth floors from 20’-0” to 16’-0”.

The proposed project is the first mixed use development under consideration by the Planning Commission.

The Planning Commission is expected to conduct the public hearing and possibly adopt the resolution conditionally approving a Development Review and Density Bonus Permit for the proposed mixed-use development project.

## Board Moves Forward with Horace Mann Shade Structure Plans

At last Tuesday's meeting the Board of Education moved forward with plans for shade structures at Horace Mann. A variety of designs were proposed and the Board came to unanimous support on three of them.

BHUSD and the Horace Mann Elementary PTA have been working to create a shade proposal for consideration by the Board.

A shade structure over the play structure at an estimated cost of \$100,000 is expected to be completed by summer of 2024. Trees and reading green in running track oval plus synthetic grass is expected to be completed by the end of summer 2023 at a cost of \$66,000. The Board also approved two, single pole pyramid shade structures on the TK portion at a total expected cost of \$50,000. The District is expecting DSA approval by the end of summer 2023.

The Board was split 2-2 on whether to include shade structures at the main entrance and parent pick up/dropoff area, which would have cost a total of \$80,000. This would have had an expected completion date of winter break 2023 had it been approved.

## Liaisons Approve "IMAGIRO" Art Display Partnership

At their Tuesday meeting, City Council Liaisons Vice Mayor Les Friedman and Councilmember Lili Bosse discussed and expressed support for an art partnership, "IMAGIRO", between the Rodeo Drive Committee and Mr. Brainwash for the summer months.

In past summer months, the Rodeo Drive Committee has activated the street with festive public art displays that offer photo opportunities for visitors and residents. Mr. Brainwash large-scale art was temporarily displayed in 2019 as part of BOLD Summer before being installed long term on the 200 block of the street.

Thierry Guetta, also known as Mr. Brainwash, is a street artist whose new



Beverly Hills contemporary art museum opened last Dec. The proposal for "IMAGIRO" includes large-scale metal art pieces of origami animals such as birds, a bear, an elephant, dog, and more in bright colors. He has proposed to have fifteen pieces displayed throughout until the week of Sept. 25. The art is intended to bring excitement to the area for both

residents and visitors.

The 15 works are several thousand pounds each, between eight and nine feet tall, placed on bases between six and 10 feet wide by 12 inches tall. Each piece will be offset from the curb and some pieces will be placed in lieu of k-rail barricades, with the barricades temporarily moved to make way for the art pieces. All merchants that are adjacent to the pieces have approved of the artwork displays for the summer.

There is no funding request from the City for this partnership.

## Planning Commission to Discuss Capital Improvement Program

The Planning Commission is expected to review the City's 2023 - 2027 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for conformance with the General Plan as part of its requirement as the planning agency, at their Thursday meeting.

The CIP allocates funds to projects over five-year periods. Each year the City updates the CIP during the budget process. It is both a budgetary document and a planning document.

The CIP is being reviewed by the Planning Commission because the City Council is currently in the process of reviewing the budget. Before funds are allocated and spent on projects, the Planning Commission reviews the CIP to determine if they involve activities that are consistent, or in conflict with the goals of the General Plan.

No new CIP projects have been added for the upcoming fiscal year.

## Rodeo Drive Discusses 2023 Holiday Decor

Rodeo Drive Committee Liaisons Vice Mayor Les Friedman and Councilmember Lili Bosse discussed an overview of the proposed Rodeo Drive holiday décor for the 2023 season, themed "Up, Up and Away Holidays", at their Tuesday meeting.

Each year the City sponsors a signature holiday program designed to celebrate the season and attract visitors.

Each year, the Committee curates decor for Rodeo Drive, proposed to be displayed and lit from Nov. 16, until Jan. 2. This year's holiday decor includes custom hot air balloons that will hover over sweets, gifts, ornaments, and lit marquees, in an effort to deliver joy throughout the holiday season. These designed vignettes will be complemented by warm white palm tree lighting around the trunks and in the tree canopies. Tinsel garland will also wrap the street light poles. Hanukkah décor will also be incorporated along the Rodeo Drive Center median.

The proposal also includes a request to waive the required permits for installation, as well as the staff time to review and approve the installation and electrical uses. A full request for any addi-



## Greene Leads Los Angeles Lawyers Philharmonic

Beverly Hills resident and Founder-Conductor Gary S. Greene led the Los Angeles Lawyers Philharmonic, and its chorus, Legal Voices, in a Concert of Hope to a full house as a benefit for Violins of Hope and the City of Hope on Saturday evening, June 17 at Walt Disney Concert Hall. The program featured works by Mozart and Beethoven as well as Broadway show music and was performed on a collection of violins from the Holocaust. Highlights included Beverly Hills attorney and Tony Award winner Michael Maguire, singing selections from Man of La Mancha and Beverly Hills resident Victoria Gordon singing "Memory" from Cats.

tional waivers for the celebration will be brought back to the Liaisons with the event program proposal.

The 2022 costs totaled \$449,592. The



## Proposed Design for Holiday Decor

funding for the Rodeo Drive Holiday Decor as well as the Rodeo Drive Holiday Lighting Celebration comes from the Transient Occupancy Tax.

The banner design along with the holiday lighting celebration proposal will be brought to the Liaisons prior to final approval by the Council.

## Liaisons to Discuss Update on Enhanced Services for City's Homeless Population

On Thursday City Council liaisons are expected to discuss an update on enhanced services for the City's homeless population as well as a proposal for a 10 year contract with Step Up on Second scattered-site permanent supportive housing units.

Since 2015, Step Up has provided homeless outreach and permanent supportive housing placement for the City. Step Up operates supportive housing

units, and is in the process of adding additional units to their portfolio.

The City's agreement with Step Up was increased last Nov. and they currently provide five outreach staff members, in addition to placing individuals in transitional housing as requested when available.

City staff believe it is important to bring forward the information to the liaisons that Step Up has the ability to acquire additional supportive housing units through a scattered-site housing model, according to the staff report.

Step Up is in the process of developing 70 additional housing units and has the capacity to contract many of those units to the City.

City Staff has indicated in a staff report that the City should look to current case law on homeless encampments as set by federal Judge David Carter to determine the number of units the City should acquire. Carter has indicated that if a city wishes to enforce anti-camping ordinances, they must have housing available to at least 60% of the homeless population. The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) in 2022 indicated there are about 39 homeless individuals in the City, resulting in the need for 24 units at 60%. According to the staff report, City Staff believes the City should look to contract for more than the minimum requirement and look closer to 40 units.

The annual cost for a unit and services is \$37,400 and the annual cost for a one bedroom and services is \$41,000. The annual cost for 40 units with all services included would be \$1,662,200 or \$16,622,000 over the 10 year agreement.

It is expected that the City Council liaisons will provide direction on if there is a desire to bring forward a complete proposal for consideration to the full Council.

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## “Run of the Stars” 5K Run/Walk to Take Place Oct. 15

Liaisons Vice Mayor Les Freidman and Councilmember Lili Bosse reviewed a request from ‘Not Today Cancer’ a Beverly Hills based non-profit that supports research for cures for pediatric cancer to host a charity 5K Run/Walk, “Run of the Stars”.

A waiver of permit and personnel fees is being requested for the third annual event to be held on Sunday, Oct. 15. No full street closures are requested for the 5K race or event Expo at Beverly Vista Middle School.

Not Today Cancer was established in 2021 by Stacey Book and Jennifer Duncan who lost their 11-year-old son Mason, to T-Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia in 2020. The group has organized this annual event, in honor of Mason, to raise awareness and funding for pediatric cancer research.

The race has grown each year and race co-founders are trying to reach the goal of 1,000 participants and attendees for 2023. The race will start at Beverly Vista Middle School, take a route that is expected to have the least amount of impact on drivers, and end with an Expo inside Beverly Vista Middle School playground area.

A waiver of permit and personnel fees is requested in an effort to maximize the total proceeds that can go to the non-profit organization.

The proposed event includes the following:

- Race bib pickup and final in-person registration.
- 5K race starting at Beverly Vista Middle School from approximately 8:30am-10:00am.
- A Post-race trophy ceremony and awards will also be handed out at the race expo.

The 5K racecourse is approximately 3.1 miles, and is geared towards anyone 10 years of age and older.

City Staff will bring the proposal to the full City Council for final approval at the July 18 meeting.

## Piedmont Names Jennifer Tedford Hawn as New Superintendent

The Piedmont Unified School District Board of Education has selected Jennifer Tedford Hawn to serve as its new superintendent.

Hawn was previously a teacher and administrator in the BHUSD. She taught English at El Rodeo and Beverly High, and later served as BHUSD Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services.

“I am profoundly appreciative of my experience



Jennifer Tedford Hawn

in BHUSD where I learned how to lead a high achieving community to even greater success. My service in BHUSD prepared me well to lead the exemplary Piedmont Unified School District as their next Superintendent, starting July 1st,” Hawn said.

The Bay Area district has approximately 2,400 students.

## Traffic and Parking Commission to Discuss Transit Study Update Next Month

The Traffic and Parking Commission is expected to discuss a Transit Pilot System Program Update at their meeting next month.

The City began a Transit Study last June to determine whether the planned transit services are sufficient to support the needs of the community. The City is considering a transit pilot program that would consist of a fixed bi-directional route operating approximately every 15 minutes on major streets south of North Santa Monica Boulevard, as well as a demand-based microtransit system.

On March 2 the City conducted a transit circulator test run from 9 AM to 4 PM to allow community members to get a feel for how a local transit system could operate, as well as for the opportunity for residents to provide feedback on the future pilot project.

The test run consisted of two City shuttles traveling the proposed circulator route in each direction with stops at 21 locations south of North Santa Monica Boulevard. The data gathered from the test will be used to determine frequency of service, number of vehicles needed, operation hours, and program costs.

Each route loop took approximately 40 minutes to complete depending on traffic conditions. Occasional blockage of a bus stop zone by vehicles was encountered during the test run. Additionally, city staff added a single test run north of North Santa Monica Boulevard to evaluate road grade, potential bus stops on



residential street blocks, and distance and timing for a potential northern loop; the loop without stops took about 25 minutes.

Eight community members, including representatives from the Traffic and Parking Commission, Public Works, and Planning commissions, participated in the test. Feedback received included long shuttle wait times, lack of shade at the bus stops, no way to track the shuttles’ progress on the route, and a suggestion to use the City’s trolleys as part of



Tom Kenney, Rodeo Drive Committee President Kathy Gohari, Mayor Julian Gold, Bruce Meyer, Cameron Richards with the Nethercutt Collection, and Jay Leno

## Concours d’Elegance Brings 44,000 Attendees

The Rodeo Drive Concours d’Elegance returned to Beverly Hills on June 18, marking its 28th year. More than 44,000 attendees turned out to enjoy the cars.

“Today was all about the dads, and a free, world-class car show is the perfect way to celebrate,” Rodeo Drive Concours d’Elegance founder Bruce Meyer said. “We try to bring new and incredible cars to this show each year, and the generous support of both local owners and our amazing sponsors made that possible. It’s fun seeing the community get to enjoy them.”

the service.

The City also currently offers free trolley services between Civic Center and Rodeo Drive every Saturday and Sunday between 11 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., excluding holidays.

Departures from the Civic Center Trolley Stop occur from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., every 60 minutes. The Civic Center stop is located on the southeast corner of Civic Center Drive and Third Street. On Sundays, the Civic Center stop is located



Hills voters turned down the LVMH luxury hotel project.

Gross discussed how opponents criticized the traffic, size, and density of the project and the hesitancy of residents to approve large developments in the City.

“Any time a developer proposes something that is not to code, the voters are not interested in that,” Gross said.

Click here to watch the full interview <https://www.nevadaneismakers.com/video/default.asp?showID=3823>.

## Traffic and Parking Commission Promotes June as “20 is Plenty!” Month

In part of the 2023 Transportation Safety Educational Campaign, the Traffic and Parking Commission is promoting “20 is plenty!” for the month of June.

The City has completed various safety campaigns as part of events or projects that focused on transportation. For example, in 2019, city staff produced the Bicycle and Pedestrian Awareness Campaign meant to bring attention to traveling safely as cyclists and pedestrians.

Under the campaign slogan – We watch out for each other – this campaign aims to teach all road users how to travel safely and keep each other safe on Beverly Hills streets. The June campaign theme is speeding.

in front of the Courthouse. Departures from the Rodeo/Dayton Trolley Stop occur from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., every 30 minutes. The Rodeo/Dayton Trolley Stop is located on the southeast corner of Rodeo Drive and Dayton Way.

The estimated cost for a one year pilot program with one microtransit vehicle and one circulator route is approximately \$3.5 million, according to the staff report.

## Gross Appears on Nevada Newsmakers

Beverly Hills Weekly Publisher Josh Gross appeared on Nevada Newsmakers last Wednesday discussing why Beverly

briefs cont. on page 6



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The message to drivers is, "20 is plenty!"

"Driving 20 MPH on residential streets will help you, your family, and neighbors arrive alive," according to the slogan.

According to the National Traffic Safety Board, people walking or biking have a 95% survival rate when hit by someone driving at 20 MPH, but only a 15% survival rate when hit by someone driving 40 MPH.

The structure of the 2023 Transportation Safety Educational Campaign consists of: umbrella slogan for all campaign materials, monthly calls to action for road users, supplemental monthly key messages, communication tactics and rationale, collateral details and placement considerations, and graphic design direction.

The umbrella slogan identified for this campaign is, "We watch out for each other." This slogan is meant to convey the community's sense of pride in their city and support for their neighbors, friends, and businesses. It is also meant to remind residents that their care for one another translates to their personal actions on the roads. The slogan will be used on all materials developed for the campaign.

Each month, the campaign will feature a different theme based on traffic safety issues observed by the community. Each theme will have specific, direct calls to action for road users intended to improve traffic safety by watching out for each other.

Some monthly themes for this year include: pedestrian safety, right-of-way at intersections, speeding, and safety around schools, among others.

### Equipping Complete for La Cienega Well No. 1

The contractor, Mehta Mechanical Company, has completed the equipping of the La Cienega Well No. 1 at the former Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf property last month and the City Council accepted the notice of completion at their June 6 meeting.

This project provided for equipping of a new potable water well, La Cienega Well No. 1, located at 1956 Chariton Street in Los Angeles. Major work included construction of a well building, bladder surge tank, piping, concrete pavement, HVAC system, PLC system, electrical/instrumentation system, landscaping, and irrigation.

With the completion of this project, La Cienega Well No. 1 pumps approximately 3 to 3.6 million gallons of water per week to the treatment plant for processing and distribution.

For the two future wells at La Cienega Park, city staff has identified two

potential well sites. The first potential well, Well Site 1, is located at the southwest corner of the park near the intersection of Le Doux Road and Olympic Boulevard.

The second potential well site, Well Site 2, is located at the northeast corner of the park near the intersection of Gregory Way and Gale Drive. Well Site 1 and the future well building will likely be outside the field of play at Fenton Field and Well Site 2 will reduce the batting cage area by about 50%, according to the staff report.

City staff will present the two potential well sites to the Recreation and Parks Commission for discussion and input at a future meeting.

The Sand Pit site monitoring well was also sampled on Feb. 9 and city staff met with the Division of Drinking Water on April 28 to discuss the results.

The DDW provided feedback and discussed the following:

- DDW stated they would like input from the Regional Board on contaminants of concern that do not fall under Title 22 drinking water regulations.
- Potentially an updated Drinking Water Source Assessment.
- Additional sampling for other concerns.
- The 50-foot control zone and the plan to coordinate with Caltrans and the neighboring commercial business owner regarding future maintenance operations.
- Logistical challenges associated with drilling a potable water well in a small confined space.

Staff had reached out to DDW for input and is expected to receive a response regarding the recommended next steps.

### Upstream to Perform Tonight

Upstream will perform tonight bringing Caribbean Music, namely, Reggae, Calypso, Soca and Steel Drum Music as part of Concerts on Canon.

Bandleader and Lead Singer/Guitarist Haile Blackman is originally from The Republic of Trinidad & Tobago and the Son of the Legendary Creator of Soca Music, the late Ras Shorty I. The band boasts a very seasoned and celebrated line up: Derek Brewstafari (Steel Drums, Vocals), Steel Drum Extraordinaire is also a Trinidad and Tobago native and will tug at your heartstrings with his melodic Steel Drum tones. Granville Cayetano (Bass/Keys & Background Vocals), Daniel Lopilato (Keys, Guitar &



Arts and Culture Chair Liliana Filipovic, Architectural Commission Chair Jennifer Schreiber, Mayor Julian Gold, and Planning Commission Chair Myra Demeter

### Commission Chairs Say Farewell

Several commissioners attended their last Mayor's Cabinet as chairs on Tuesday.



### Upstream

Background Vocals) and Mark Spiller (Drums & Background Vocals) complete the stellar crew.

### Chamber to Host Summer Garden Party June 28

The Chamber of Commerce will be hosting its annual Summer Garden Party on Wednesday, June 28, for its 2023 Board Installation.

The event will honor member businesses and present the induction of the incoming Chair of the Board of Directors

in the presence of City officials and over 600 Beverly Hills professionals. Following the ceremony there will be samplings from sponsors.

This event is for active member businesses of the Chamber and RSVP is required.

Visit <https://members.beverlyhills-chamber.com/events/details/summer-garden-party-member-appreciation-board-installation-2023-24768> to register for the event.

### Beverly Hills Day of Wellness Coming in Sept.

The Human Relations Commission is proposing a new event in collaboration with the Health and Safety Commission and Recreation and Parks Commission focused on wellness. The event is proposed as Beverly Hills Day of Wellness, and is expected to take place on Sunday, Sept. 10, at Roxbury Park and Community Center.

The event is proposed to be held from 10am to 3pm. The event would include

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# coverstory

## RUNNING ROTARY

### Incoming Rotary Club President Lillian Raffel Discusses Her Goals

By Danielle Berjikian

**You are the incoming Rotary Club president. What are your goals for this year?**

I have several different goals. We're starting a full transition away from Zoom. So, it's going to be more engagement of the membership. Membership engagement is going to be one of my top goals. We'll have a lot of events that people can participate in. We'll have our meetings go back to a regular format. [Outgoing President] JR [Dzubak] really went out of his way and did a standout fantastic job of making the meetings fun and getting people back to the hotel. I want to continue that. I'll be doing it in my own way. We will have great meetings with great speakers and great participation. Those are some of my main goals in terms of meetings. I [also] really want to do more community outreach, [and] more club service events.

**You are a registered nurse by training. Tell us about that.**

I'm still a registered nurse, but I haven't worked in a while. I worked at Cedars-Sinai. I worked in the orthopedic ward, but I spent most of my time there working in the ICU, in medical intensive care, and in the Respiratory Intensive Care Unit. I [also] did some work in the emergency room. From there I went to work at Mount Saint Mary's University and I taught nursing there for many years. I also taught at the Los Angeles Community College of Nursing.

**What advice has outgoing president JR Dzubak given you?**

Not to worry so much and not to stress.

That really was his best advice yet. He and [former Rotary President] Charles Black both gave me that advice because I tend to be more of a stressful, compulsive person than I should be. But they said, don't stress, and don't stress the small stuff. They both told me that it was going to be a fantastic year for me. They look forward to helping and participating and they have been fabulous founding boards for me.

**You are also president of the Beverly Hills/West Hollywood Democratic Club. Tell us about that.**

I would say being a political activist in the Democratic Club is sort of in my DNA. My whole family was, my mother, my grandfather, and so forth. It's been very rewarding to participate in that. It was a small club originally and now we have over 180 paid members in the club. We unfortunately haven't had a major fundraiser in several years, but the club has stepped up with small donations and we're able to do some mailing where we have our democratic values on the line, especially

with all the chaos that's going on in the country. We want to make sure that democracy survives and we are more of a grassroots participation in that effort.

**Tell us about your family.**

I'm married to a wonderful human being. One of the best human beings I've ever met, Stuart Raffel. He has two daughters. My stepdaughters [Barrie Raffel and Linda Raffel] are really wonderful people. Barrie is married to our son-in-law, who is fantastic, his name is



L-R: Lisa Coggan Middler, Steph Middler, Mavis Middler, Linda Raffel, Stuart Raffel, Barrie Raffel, Lillian Raffel, and Holland Middler

Kevin Killen. We have a grandson, Shane [Killen], who graduated last year from Carnegie Mellon University. He was an opera music major and has a fantastic singing voice. The other daughter, Linda, lives in town and she's in sales. She's a very remarkable woman who is kind, generous, and a hard worker. She's also the Membership Chair of the Democratic Club. Then I have a daughter, Stephanie [Middler], who graduated from Beverly Hills High. She went to USC and was a music major. Through a series of good coincidences, she's working at Apple as an engineering project manager. She's married to Lisa, another fantastic human being. They have two daughters, Mavis and Holland, my granddaughters, they're just fantastic, cute, smart, and adorable girls. Being a grandma is the best job in the world. I recommend it to everybody.

My niece, Kerstin, who is [also] like a daughter to me, lived with me while she went to UCLA and she worked for FTA. I adore her and she is married to Adam Christiansen and has a daughter Audrey who is four years old.

**In Issue #1186 Rotary President JR Dzubak said "One of the things I hope to accomplish is to build a stronger tie to our Beverly Hills schools. We've got a great relationship but I hope to be able to explore and expand on that partnership by continuing to invest in our young people." Do you agree with his statement?**

Oh, absolutely. We've had wonderful participation from the students. I want to continue that as well. There's a rotary hack at Beverly Hills High School and we're going to have some events that tie into the schools this year. So, it's all about building on what JR has started and previous presidents have started. We have fantastic leadership in the youth divisions of our Rotary leadership. I think that

we will really build upon what previous presidents have started. We look forward to having a fun run with the high school with more shared events. We did the food drive last year and we're going to continue those things.

I believe this year is the year we will do the program 'Every 15 Minutes'. Superintendent Michael Bregy is a member of our club and he always reaches out. We have a lot of city people that are members and that's really great for our club.

**What are some projects rotary is working on?**

Well, we're going to have some service projects around town, like food drives and blanket drives. We're going to have a drive for supplies for the mothers and children of Camp Pendleton in September. I hope that people will participate because it doesn't have to be just Rotarians to participate in that. It can be the wider community. When they see a food drive or a provision drive, I hope that they will participate and get to know rotary a little better because it's a fantastic community asset. In 2024 we will [also] start the celebration of our centennial year and it will end in December of 2024 with a big celebration party.

**What is one thing many of our readers do not know about rotary?**

A lot of people confuse Rotary with the Chamber of Commerce, and we're not. We're not the same. Rotary is a service club, and our motto is 'Service Above Self'. It's not a primary business club. People do business with each other in the club because they've met each other. So, that's one benefit. But it's a service club. It's not a business enhancement club. I think that's the main thing people don't know. People don't know about the massive amounts of charitable and service projects that we have throughout the world. It's the largest service club in the world. So, people do have some misperceptions about Rotary and what its actual function is. But we're about Service Above Self.

both the Roxbury Community Center and patio and grass area, and provide attendees with wellness programming and general wellness and mental health information.

A sample of programming includes the following: drum circle, intention setting and affirmations, Tai Chi, yoga, ground-

ing, managing stress, meditation, sound bath, and craft station.

Some sessions are expected to take place on the grass, such as Tai Chi, while others will take place inside, like the Grounding session.

In addition to the programming, there will be information booths for some

Community Assistance Grant Funding vendors to present their services, such as The Maple Counseling Center.

There is also an interest in providing an opportunity for specialty vendors to be able to sell some of their products. This could include vendors of crystals, aromatherapy, massage services, or

health food products and supplements. There will also likely be amplified sound and music in use during the event.

City staff is moving forward with the Commissioners in planning and executing the proposed event, and is pending final approval from the City Council.

-Briefs Compiled by Danielle Berjikian



## Top BHHS Athletes Honored

By Steven Herbert

Arian Naim was selected as Beverly High's male athlete of the year for the 2022-23 school year while fellow track team member Danielle Hollander, soccer player Katrina Chong and tennis player-sprinter Eugena Lee were the female athletes of the year.

Naim was third in the boys' 400 meters in the Southern Section Division 3 track and field finals and sixth in the boys' 400 meters in the Southern Section Masters Meet at Moorpark High School, qualifying for the state meet.

Naim was the Ocean League champion in the boys' 400 meters in 2021, 2022 and 2023.

Chong led the Normans in both goals with 18 and assists with 13 in the 2022-23 season.

Hollander was the Ocean League girls' 800, 1,600 and 3,200 champion in 2021, 2022 and 2023 and 2021 and 2022 league girls' cross-country champion.

Lee and Bella Shtorch won two of three sets in the Normans' 11-7 victory over Fountain Valley in the 2022 Southern Section Division 2 girls' tennis final.

Lee won all three of her singles sets in Beverly Hills' 72-71 victory over Flintridge Prep on games in the 2021 Division 4 final that both teams won nine sets.

Naim and Lee also received the Don Reynolds Memorial Scholarship Award, given to a student 'who has shown something special,' great in athletics, 'the teammate everyone appreciated and held themselves to a high standard of

character and ethics,' said Tim Ellis, the Beverly Hills Unified School District's Director of District Athletics.

Lee and Lola Eustance received the Susan Stevens Tennis Award for a player exemplifying great sportsmanship. The scholarship was established by the late longtime tennis coach.

Joining Hollander, Lee and Naim in the school's Athletic Hall of Fame are fellow 2023 graduates Josh Hollander, a cross-country and track distance runner, and Alexa Kreshek, a soccer goalkeeper and softball first baseman.

Boys' soccer player Ariel Goldberg was selected as the Scholar Athlete of the Year in recognition of academic excellence and varsity athletic participation.

Girls' soccer player Kayla Kohanheidiud received the Beverly Hills Athletic Association Founders Award which goes to the Varsity Club selection who best represents the Athletic Department on the field and in the classroom.

Varsity Club consists of athletes that best exemplify everything that the coaches expect and want in a student athlete,' Ellis said.

Girls' volleyball player Mika Pomerantz received the Lessie Paysinger Me-

morial Award given to a student who embodies the spirit of Beverly Hills High School. It is named for the late mother of longtime coaches Carter, Vonzie, and Donald Paysinger.

Indoor and beach volleyball player Akira Carey received the Ben Bushman Memorial Scholarship, named for the late coach and principal and presented to the senior who exemplifies the qualities Bushman modeled – hard work, action over words, commitment to team and teammates and compassion with fellow students.

The Southern Section Division 2 champion girls' tennis boys' team was selected as the team of the year.

All the award recipients were 2023 graduates. The ceremony was held May 24 at the Swim-Gym. The awards were determined by voting by the school's coaches.

*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.

PONCE, FERNANDO ALBERTO, 26, arrested on 6/12/23 for resisting, delaying, or obstructing any public officer, peace officer, or emergency medical technician, hit/run misdemeanor, and driving under the influence with blood alcohol over .08.

JOHNSON, DAMON, 50, arrested on 6/13/23 for soliciting anyone to engage lewd or dissolute conduct in any public place/view, and having an outside felony warrant.

VANNUKI, MARK JOHN, 56, arrested on 6/13/23 for public intoxication.

WOODS, JUSTIN DANIEL, 31, arrested on 6/14/23 for petty theft, and having an outside misdemeanor warrant.

GROSSBART, LISA SHUB, 65, arrested on 6/15/23 for driving while license is suspended for DUI, and DUI causing injury: driving under the influence of alcohol.

BARILLAS, STEVEN ALEXANDER, 31, arrested on 6/15/23 for having an outside felony warrant.

SHUSTERMAN, BRET JORDAN, 35, arrested on 6/15/23 for driving while license is suspended.

IRISH, RICHARD LEE, 32, arrested on 6/15/23 for possession of drug paraphernalia.

FIELD, DYLAN JOSEPH, 20, arrested on 6/17/23 for driving under the influence of drugs.

SANCHEZ, WALTER ARMANDO, 27, arrested on 6/16/23 for battery against a person the defendant had been dating, engagement, married, or domestic relationship with.

MOORE, JASON JAMAL, 42, arrested on 6/17/23 for having an outside felony warrant.

CASSIBA, SAMUEL BENLEVI, 35, arrested on 6/17/23 for defacement, damage, or destruction of less than \$400.

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**Next stop: more subway.**

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

**CONSTRUCTION UPDATE**

In advance of the Wilshire/Rodeo Station appendage construction, potholing work will be taking place on South Beverly Dr just south of Wilshire Bl. Lane reductions and turn restrictions on Beverly Dr will be required for this activity.

- > Utility work is weekdays from 8:15pm–7am and weekends 8am–8pm
- > Station construction is 24 hours a day, seven days a week
- > Weekend eastbound traffic on Wilshire Bl will be detoured at Robertson Bl through July

**CONTACT US**

213.922.6934  
purplelineext@metro.net  
metro.net/purple  
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purplelineext

**M Metro**

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names and addresses used by the Seller within three years before the date such list was sent or delivered to the Buyer are: NONE.

DATED: April 4, 2023

Transferees:

S/ Eric Johlekar

6/22/23

CNS-3711778#

### SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL)

CASE NUMBER (Número del Caso): CVPS2204686

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT (AVISO AL DEMANDADO): Desert Springs Healthcare & Wellness Centre, Indio, Healthcare & Wellness Center, LLC, Citrus Wellness Center, LLC, Rockport Healthcare Support Services, LLC, Rockport Administrative Services, LLC, Rechnitz Citrus GP, Randolph Gibbs, M.D. Does 1-100,

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE): Thomas Handran, Sharon Handran

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone

call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center ([www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp)), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site ([www.lawhelpcalifornia.org](http://www.lawhelpcalifornia.org)), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center ([www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp)), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. **NOTE:** The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.

**¡AVISO!** Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en

su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación.

Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California ([www.sucorte.ca.gov](http://www.sucorte.ca.gov)), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia.

Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos

sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, ([www.lawhelpcalifornia.org](http://www.lawhelpcalifornia.org)), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, ([www.sucorte.ca.gov](http://www.sucorte.ca.gov)) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. **AVISO:** Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.

The name and address of the court is (El nombre y dirección de la corte es): Superior Court of California, County of Riverside  
3255 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way, Palm Springs, California 92262

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is (El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es): Steven J. Weinberg, Mccune Law Group, 73255 El Paso, Suite 10, PALM DESERT, CA 92260

DATE (Fecha): 12/08/2022

Cynthia Chagoya, Clerk (Secretario), by W. Samuel Hamrick Jr., Deputy (Adjunto)

(SEAL)  
6/22, 6/29, 7/6, 7/13/23

CNS-3713005#

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I am overjoyed to be recognized on this year's RealTrends #AmericasBest list! Thank you to our buyers & sellers, our colleagues in the industry, and our support at Compass for making this opportunity a reality.

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Beverly Hills High School + CSUN Alumna



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