

# Los Feliz Ledger

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June 2009

## Board Votes vs. Election Changes

By Allison B. Cohen

**LOS FELIZ**—The Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council (GGPNC), May 19th, voted down two motions proposed by current board member Tomas O’Grady to make the council’s election process more “democratic.”

One motion would have reduced the board’s number of appointed seats from the current nine to a minimum of four. The motion lost: 5 members voted in favor; 11 voted against and 3 members

see GGPNC page 4

## BID Asked to Reform

By Jessica Ogilvie

Ledger Contributing Writer

**LOS FELIZ**—The governing board of the Los Feliz Business Improvement District (BID) heard a list of proposed reforms on May 13th from “Get Rid of the BID,” a group that last month protested the board’s activities in an attempt to have the BID shut down.

The list of seven items included a review and possible revision of the BID’s bylaws, a call for accounting transparency and a restructuring of mandatory fees paid by some 280 or so merchants to the BID each year.

Demands were not addressed individually due to time constraints, however the

see BID Reform page 4

## Pot Stores Sprouting In Atwater

By Heather Downie

Ledger Contributing Writer

**ATWATER VILLAGE**—Over the past year, four medical marijuana dispensaries have moved into Atwater Village within blocks of each other along Glendale Boulevard.

The influx has prompted critics to question their place in such a quiet community. And just about everyone—including those who run the dispensaries—is wondering how so many ended up in Atwater.

see Pot Stores page 19



Diane Serafino, owner of “Woof” in Atwater, offers feedback and suggestions to Senator Carol Liu and Mark Newman-Kuzel, President of the Atwater Griffith Park Chamber of Commerce on how to improve business in Atwater Village. Photo by Marie Chao

## Senator Shops and Gets An Earful

By Heather Downie, Ledger Contributing Writer

**ATWATER VILLAGE**—After strolling into Atwater Village’s Sweets for the Soul brownie shop, California State Senator Carol Liu (D-21st District) tries one of the free samples. It’s Obama flavored.

“It’s really good,” Liu says, who was sporting a pink striped shirt and an 80th Anniversary Griffith Park Golf Club pin.

The storefront was one of many Liu visited on her May 2nd tour of Atwater’s Glendale Boulevard.

Liu, who represents nearly 850,000 people in the 21st Senate District—which includes Silver Lake, Los Feliz, Eagle Rock and Atwater Village—made the trip to get feedback about how she can better serve the area.

“I’m here to find out what’s going on in this community,” she said.

To do that, she spent her Saturday afternoon talking with local merchants at Wells Fargo, Woof, Heat Beat House and a number of other local

businesses. She took pictures with diners at Canele. She bought children’s gifts from Amelia Fitzwater.

The bulk of her trip, however, was spent sitting down over iced drinks at Kaldi Coffee with half a dozen members of the Atwater Village Chamber of Commerce. They included chamber president Mark Newman-Kuzel; Netty Carr, former owner of Netty’s Restaurant; and Mary Gray, owner of Pot-Ted.

see Senator page 18

## Neighborhood Councils Get Budget Scare

By Jessica Ogilvie, Ledger Contributing Writer

**LOS FELIZ**—After nearly a month of wrangling, the Los Angeles City Council approved a budget on May 18th that will only reduce the city’s Neighborhood Council budgets 10 percent—to \$45,000 per year.

The amount of the reduction had been a point of contention since Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa unveiled his budget proposal in late April. At one point, a cut of 80 percent—down to \$11,200 for each council—had been considered for recommendation by the city’s Budget and Finance committee.

The proposal—while short lived—sparked outrage

from Neighborhood Council members across the city and stakeholders alike. Both local Los Angeles city councilmembers Tom LaBonge and Eric Garcetti said they would not support such a drastic cut, citing the positive work Neighborhood Councils do for communities.

“An 80 percent cut literally puts us out of business,” said Tomas O’Grady, treasurer of Los Feliz’s Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council (GGPNC).

The GGPNC submitted a Community Impact Statement to the City Council May 13th, urging members to keep

see Budget Scare page 18

## LAUSD Budget Cuts: “A Tale of Two Silver Lakes”

By Kimberly Gomez

Ledger Contributing Writer

Over \$1 billion of federal stimulus package money will be infused over the next six months into the coffers of the Los Angeles Unified School District. But only the district’s so-called “Title 1” schools—where at least 40% of the school population is considered low income—will reap its benefits.

As a result, Silver Lake’s Micheltorena Street Elementa-

see LAUSD Cuts page 27

[COMMENTARY]

## Real Estate: Think “U” Not “V”

by Richard Stanley

Ledger Contributing Writer



If I could choose one word to describe the current real estate market, it would be “busy”—very busy. Save your enthusiasm, though. We’re not on the cusp of a “Happy Days in Dixie” market again,

see Real Estate page 14

## Remembering the Fire



Los Angeles City Councilmember Tom LaBonge shows Carolyn, Oliver and Josie Marks where Fire Station 56 (Silver Lake) is located on a map of the city. The station hosted an open house in celebration of Fire Service Recognition Day, Sat. May 9th. The event was one of many during “Griffith Park Renaissance Week,” May 2nd through May 9th, commemorating the 2nd Anniversary of the Griffith Park fire. Photo credit: Michelle Kunz



**[LETTER FROM THE PUBLISHER]**

Last summer, when reporting on the GGPNC's election, I learned that almost half of its board is not elected. I found it odd and called the City Clerk's office to inquire about it.

The City Clerk—overwhelmed having just administered citywide neighborhood elections for the first time—told me they had no data from the various 89 councils they oversee. They thought the number of appointed positions—nine of 19—on the GGPNC seemed high, but they were not concerned.

I moved onto other issues—filing the concern away, perhaps a story for another day.

It was interesting then for me to learn that Tomas O'Grady, a current GGPNC board member, also shared my concern. Getting no where with the City's Clerk's office on the issue—as was my experience—he sought out all of the 89 council's bylaws and discovered that indeed, our own GGPNC is a true anomaly.

According to a final report by the Neighborhood Council Review Commission from 2007,

only 4.5% of Los Angeles city's neighborhood council members are appointed. The GGPNC board, however, is made up of 45% appointed members—ten times the city's average.

Founding board members have said they wanted so many appointed positions in the beginning because they didn't entirely trust the voting process. They wanted to get the GGPNC off to the best start possible. That makes a lot of sense and they have succeeded.

But it's time for change. I've seen the GGPNC make decisions solely based on a room of 200 or more angry citizens. But they have ignored the request of over 500 petition signatures—nearly as many as voted in last year's election. And further, they continue to want to stay out of step with every other neighborhood council in the city. And they just can't really give a good reason why.

The GGPNC missed a golden opportunity in May to demonstrate the very thing neighborhood council's were made for—to hear the people. Please rethink your position and then get back to the business of doing the good work you do for the community.

**[FATHER'S DAY]**

**Dad's special day this year is Sunday, June 21st. Check out these ways to honor yours:**

**Father's Day Craft**  
Create a card and key chain for dad. June 18th, 4:00 p.m. Cahuenga Branch Library 4591 Santa Monica Blvd. (323) 664-6418

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**H.U.F. Awards Scholarship & Luncheon Honoring Today's Unsung Father's**  
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A special day for homeless men and their families. Free Admission, June 21st, Los Angeles Mission 303 E. 5th St. (213) 629-1227 www.losangelesmission.org

**A Day with Dad at the Pier.**  
Festivities include a fishing derby, chess competition, and other fun-filled activities. Free admission. June 21st, 7:30 p.m. Santa Monica Pier www.santamonicipier.org

**American Diabetes Association's, "Father of the Year Awards,"**  
a benefit to raise diabetes awareness, research, and advocacy programs. June 21st, Reception: 6 p.m. Dinner: 7 p.m. Reservations Required Contact: Kathy Sanchez (323) 966-2890 Ext.# 7434 Beverly Hills Hotel 9641 Sunset Blvd. www.diabetes.org

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[ POLICE BLOTTER JUNE 2009 ]

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<b>Burglary Theft from Vehicle</b>	47		
<b>Burglaries:</b>	8		
<b>Grand Theft Auto:</b>	19		
<b>Robbery:</b>	6		
<b>Attempt burglary, 04/08/09, 4 p.m., 2800 blocf of Glendale Blvd. Suspect attempted to open the front door, while the victim was inside the house. Victim yelled and boyfriend followed the suspect and called the police. Suspect fled location.</b>			
<b>Burglary, 04/05/09, 4 p.m., 4100 block Prospect Ave. Suspect smashed the front window of victim's residence. Suspect entered and ransacked location. Suspect fled location with property.</b>			
<b>Burglary, 04/03/09, 8:30 a.m., 2100 Winona Blvd. Suspect entered victim's residence via the rear</b>			
<b>Burglary, 04/01/09, 8 p.m., 3900 Los Feliz. Suspect cut metal bars covering the window on a garage, gained entry and removed two bicycles. Suspect fled with property.</b>			
<b>Burglary, 04/21/09, 1 p.m., 4600 block of Kingswell Ave. Suspect pried open the rear door of victim's residence and gained entry. Suspect entered and removed property.</b>			
<b>Safety Tip:</b> Summer is here. Please do not leave children or animals in a car. The temperature rises quickly. Watch for children near swimming pools, even if the pools are shallow and small.			

## Water Restrictions To Have Little Effect on Park

By Rachel Heller, Ledger Contributing Writer

**GRIFFITH PARK**—New Los Angeles Dept. of Water and Power (DWP) water restrictions that go into effect June 1st will have little effect on Griffith Park, Los Angeles Dept. of Recreation and Parks officials say.

The restrictions, which limit the use of home sprinkler systems to twice per week, won't affect the majority of the park because most of the property is irrigated by rainfall or with recycled water and is thus exempt.

"For the mass majority of Griffith Park, there will be very little impact from this ordinance," said Mike Shull, superintendent of planning and construction at the Dept. of Recreation and Parks.

Wilson and Harding golf courses, along with the old zoo, ranger's station and Crystal Springs area are all irrigated

with recycled water, he said. The remaining picnic areas and ball field that are not on recycled water will be subject to the DWP restrictions and will only be watered twice per week.

"Depending on how hot it gets, there could be some adverse impacts for those areas, such as brown grass," Shull said. The water restrictions will not significantly raise the potential for a fire hazard, he added. The department will still mow the grass and keep brush cleared.

Tregnan and Roosevelt golf courses are slated to switch to recycled water by December 2011. They will be subject to the restrictions in the meantime.

The DWP announced new water conservation measures in April designed to reduce wasteful water usage as Los Angeles heads into the summer months.

[ROVING REPORTER]

## Mandatory Water Conservation

By Jennifer Haning  
 Ledger Contributing Writer



A mandatory water conservation program will go into effect on June 1st. Under the city's ordinance, sprinkler use and water landscaping is restricted to Mondays and Thursdays. Additionally, other forms of water usage will be considered illegal and violations are subject to fines. How do you plan on handling this water-wise initiative?



"Water conservation is critical to our future, and it's a goal worth attaining. The carelessness of a few individuals puts us all in jeopardy."

- **Marcus Banerjee, Rowena Ave., Silver Lake**



"I will try and be more attentive when I water my lawn. I know I'm guilty of overwatering from time to time, so this

new ordinance will make me pay more attention to what I'm doing." - **Darin Jackson, Finley Ave., Los Feliz**



"Finally! I think mandatory conservation is a strategy that will result in heightened awareness—not only at

the community level, but at the individual level too."

- **Scott Sams, Amherst Ave., Los Feliz**



"I am going to try and do one less load of laundry per week. That's my goal."

- **Thelma Robinson, Micheltorena St., Silver Lake**



"Next year I will rethink the size of my garden."

- **Harry Bell, Revere Ave., Atwater Village**

## New Neighborhood Assoc. Announced

**LOS FELIZ**—Residents have formed a new neighborhood association, called Los Feliz Square, serving the area between Normandie to Hillhurst and Hollywood Blvd. to Los Feliz Blvd.

The association is open to all residents, renters and homeowners, within the boundaries.

For information, [www.losfelizsquare.org](http://www.losfelizsquare.org).

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GGPNC from page 1

abstained. A compromise to study the issue and report further on it in 2010, also failed.

O'Grady had sought the change to the 19-seat board's makeup after discovering the GGPNC has possibly the highest number of appointed seats of any of the city's 89 neighborhood councils. The GGPNC has 10 seats that are elected by ballot and nine seats that are given by appointment.

O'Grady lost his bid even though his proposal came backed with a petition signed by over 500 so-called neighborhood stakeholders, 30 letters of support and a slew of supporting comments from other neighborhood councils—from such places as Westchester, Chatsworth and San Pedro.

"The board thinks it's more efficient to be appointed," said O'Grady in an interview after the vote. "They don't understand democracy. If they are not representing the stakeholder and the stakeholder's request, they are not really a neighborhood council."

O'Grady had also sought to only have elected board members make appointments.

Currently, all board members—elected and appointed—can vote on and make appointments. O'Grady sought the change effective immediately, which would have impacted a slate of appointments this August. But a compromise

motion to delay the change to 2011, also failed.

The issues have taken over the board's last two neighborhood council meetings, pushing them into the early morning hours.

At both April's and May's meetings, founding members of the council spoke before the board indicating they had set up the council as they did to make it the strongest board possible.

"We felt it was important to reach out to a variety of stakeholders," said Charley Mims, immediate past co-chair of the council and one of its founding members. "Some are more eager to serve. But others that could make a contribution might never consider it. Experience has borne that out."

But Ricardo Gomez, who was also involved in the GGPNC's early formation, filed a letter to the council on May 18th saying now was the time for change.

Citing a problem of "perception," and the "appearance of favoritism" and "impropriety" Gomez wrote: "What seemed like a good idea at the time, is no longer so. The ideal solution is to allow stakeholders to vote for all GGPNC governing board members."

A handful of speakers spoke in favor of O'Grady's proposal and two of O'Grady's children read excerpts from letters received by their fa-

see GGPNC page 18

Bid Reform from page 1

board's Administration Committee began the process of reviewing the list in more detail on May 21.

"Everything on there is legit," said Mark Cianciulli, board member and head of the board's Administration Committee. "[We] have sincere intentions of making business better for everyone."

Barbara Ferris, who manages a local nonprofit organization, led the "Get Rid of the BID" charge and presented the list of proposed reforms to the board. Ferris stated that dissatisfaction with the BID has been building over the course of several years.

"There was a lot of disillusionment that's taken place as far as use of the money," she said.

Ferris and others created the "Get Rid of the Bid" campaign in March after a number of local merchants did not receive a ballot for the BID's January 2009 election in the mail. According to the BID's president, Ermanno Neivillier, the ballots went out late and in an effort to make up time,

the BID board hand delivered them instead of using the mail, which is customary.

The protest group's efforts to shut the BID down failed in April, after the group did not gather enough protest signatures from local businesses.

As part of the presentation of reforms, Ferris noted the importance of sending e-mails to BID members that contain board meeting agendas and approved minutes, in keeping with the Brown Act.

It's "an extremely important part of transparency," said Ferris... "[Members] feel out of the loop, in that they have to seek out the information."

Jonathan Sample, who was recently elected to the board and is now its Public Relations and Marketing committee chair, acknowledged that "most of the [demands] are reasonable."

"You need to make sure the accounting is there, the communication is there," he said. "There's a perception that some of those communication issues are malicious, but at the end of the day [we are] a handful of volunteers who are

trying to run a business, like everyone else."

Added board president Neivillier, "I'm happy with that list [of demands.] We don't have a problem with it—none of us do."

Once the Administration Committee's review is complete, recommendations for next steps will be presented to the board at their June 10th meeting.

According to Neivillier, it is unlikely that the list will need to be put to a vote, but rather if the recommendations are taken up by the board, reforms will simply be put into action.

"If there's something we should have been doing," he said, "we'll do it."

Ferris, however, remains cautious.

"As changes begin to be apparent," she said, "our level of hopefulness will begin to go up, but right now it's very guarded."

To see the list of reforms the BID board is currently considering, please visit the Los Feliz Ledger website: [losfelizledger.com](http://losfelizledger.com)

[ECHO PARK CORRESPONDENT]

French Culture for A Cause

By Hayley Fox, Ledger Columnist



On Sunday, June 7th, local French foodies and Francophiles will descend on Elysian Park for the "Picnic des Chefs." Hosted by The Club Culinare of French Cuisine, this all day picnic trades in sandwiches and lemonade for ratatouille and champagne.

The Club Culinare, a non profit, is comprised of French culinary enthusiasts, including chefs, restaurant owners and sommeliers. Their mission is to expose the public to French food and culture, from both historical and contempo-

rary points of view.

With multiple avenues for fundraising including this Picnic Des Chefs, Club Culinare has donated to multiple organizations in Los Angeles including HOPE, the Los Angeles Childrens Hospital program for cancer, as well as The Pink Ladies, a breast cancer support group. Baring this in mind, the \$50 adult ticket to the picnic and the \$20 children's fee becomes well worth it, especially when you consider the expansive spread of food, drinks, and activities the afternoon holds in store.

Beginning at 11:30 a.m.

at the Old Lodge and it's surrounding park area in Elysian Park, this picnic includes live band performances and a French DJ, raffles, prizes, and even a kid's moon-bounce.

More impressive still is the grandiose culinary experience you will receive. Starting with an appetizer course of Pate, Quiche Lorraine and authentic French breads, the menu explodes from there with a sampling of regional food from all over France: Leg of lamb from Provence, artichoke salad and Shrimp Americain from Brittany, rotisserie chicken and French fries from Paris, and a variety of pastries, cheeses, french beers, wines, and soft drinks.

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[SILVER LAKE CORRESPONDENT]

# The Summer Buzz from Silver Lake

By Ceres Madoo, Ledger Columnist



The buzz on the street this summer in Silver Lake is Homesteading—minimal or full blown, some call it Insteading—however way you say it, it's here. Perhaps you find yourself instinctually using your bath water to soak the drought resistant giant Dr. Seuss shrub separating you from your neighbor. Or instead of the tasteless tomatoes you use to buy at the Exxon-owned, Viacom-owned Ralph's-owned Trader Joes (joke), you grew huge delicious softball size firehouse red ones yourself and you're making pasta sauce for the neighborhood.

Silver Lake's backyard sanctuaries now have edibles in the garden. The movement of lean and green is serious and delicious. The "do it yourself" quality of homesteading appeals to our creative hard working community, now, if there could only be more days in the week-end instead of the week.

But we all know the week-end really starts Thursday and thank our lucky stars, every third Thursday of the month is "The All Acoustic, Old Time Music Jam" at our own, Hyperion Tavern (1941 Hyperion

Ave. <http://hyperiontavern.com>) with only a small barber's shop pole light by the door to distinguish it from other windowless slabs of low line buildings on Hyperion, it is the subterranean Silver Lake dive to experience.

Ben Guzman, local Old Time Music enthusiast ([www.oldtimeymusic.com](http://www.oldtimeymusic.com)) fiddler, organizer and third foot of the band Triple Chicken Foot has been playing at the Tavern's 3rd Thursday Free Acoustic Jam for over two years.

"It used to be five people, then 10 folks," said Guzman. "Now we are nearing 20 folks for the jam, and what is really great, is now there is an au-

dience of 10-15 people every jam, just there listening."

On another note, the Silverlake Independent Jewish Community Center (SIJCC) at 1110 Bates Ave. has cool summer activities, besides a preschool camp, Book Club, Yoga, Classes in Chinese Culture, and Saturday Art for the Kids, it is a bustling center. It also hosts renowned classes in Ballet and Karate.

Miss Helen's Ballet and Robert Meltzer with his Tang Soo Go for Kids are life long teachers. Each is immensely respected by students and parents galore. See the SIJCC for activity details ([www.sijcc.net](http://www.sijcc.net)).

## Los Feliz Village Street Fair Cancelled

By Matt Summers, Ledger Guest Writer

**LOS FELIZ**—For the first time in 17 years, the Los Feliz Village Street Fair, sponsored and produced by the Los Feliz Village Business Improvement District (BID), will not occur this June.

The BID cancelled the event in February citing concerns it had attracted too many outside vendors and that the funds used on producing the one-day event could possibly be better spent year-round promoting Los Feliz.

"There was some concern that the fair was moving in the

direction of a larger production rather than what it had started out as; which [was] a celebration of our beloved area and the people who live, work, shop and play in it," said Jonathan Sample, owner of Fresh Pressed on Hollywood Boulevard, a newly elected member of the BID board and chair of its PR/Marketing Committee.

As a result, according to several BID board members, the group is weighing the option of creating more year-round Village activities, like a monthly Farmer's Market, for example.

The fair had become a popular event—one that many locals and others from around Los



## Parting Thoughts

by Michael Locke  
Silver Lake Correspondent

It's been about 18 months since Donna and I said "goodbye" to Silver Lake.

Moving to Los Feliz in December 2007, we've stayed close to "old" friends in part by writing this column. Recently, Allison (*Los Feliz Ledger* Editor) informed me that she had found a replacement, in answer to an appeal I made at the time we made our move.

So, I'll be taking a short break, where I'll concentrate on other priorities, partly to get to know our new neighbors and take a more active part in the community life of Los Feliz. Allison has offered me the opportunity to come back, which

I'd like to take advantage of in the not-to-distant future.

In the meantime, I'd like to express my gratitude, first to Allison, who gave me the opportunity to write this column. She has been a great friend and collaborator, offering suggestions and encouragement. I'm a better writer and communicator as a result of it.

Secondly, to all the many wonderful people that we had the opportunity to meet as a result of living in Silver Lake: thanks for providing stories, memorable characters, inspiring leaders, devoted caregivers, and worthy projects to write about. There is much left to tell...let the stories continue!

Angeles—looked forward to.

"It's very unfortunate. I like the fair, especially the Palermo's stand and all of the great people," said Los Angeles City Councilmember Tom LaBonge. "We have to make up for it by visiting the village and bringing the spirit back."

The fair had attracted hundreds of thousands to the area over the years. Last year alone, the event received an estimated \$500,000 in free media publicity and advertising support, according to John Forrester of Los Feliz Media who helped promote the event.

"The Street Fair has almost become a victim of its own success," said Forrester. "We had aggressively grown it over the last 5 years and it had blossomed into something

truly remarkable. Yet certain local merchants didn't like the fact that it had grown so big, and included outside vendors. I actually don't understand the notion that a small, by Los Feliz for Los Feliz event is better. If you're just attracting the same local people that live here and patronize your businesses anyway—how does that grow the merchant community?"

According to several BID board members and others close to the issue, the consensus is to reassess the issue and bring back the street fair in 2010.

"I'm very sad the street fair won't be held this year," said BID President and Il Cappriccio owner Ermanno Neiviller. "I always look forward to it... We will be back next year and better."

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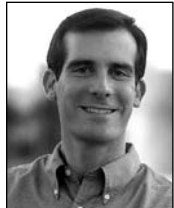
## Know the Law

On June 1 watering with sprinklers will be restricted to Mondays and Thursdays - before 9:00 a.m. and after 4:00 p.m. - only. Violators are subject to fines. The City has other prohibited uses of water which are also being enforced. Are you obeying the law?

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**[ERIC GARCETTI]  
New City of LA  
Law Protects  
Homeowners  
from Fraud**

**By Eric Garcetti  
Los Angeles City Council  
President**



Times are tough everywhere and even highly-educated, dedicated employees are losing their jobs and in some cases their homes. A few weeks ago, RealtyTrac announced the one in every 374 households in America was in foreclosure in April, the highest monthly rate since the company began collecting this data five years ago.

Many of us have seen the signs on the side of the road: "Need foreclosure help? Call this number." And with the economy in recession, many desperate homeowners do call these "mortgage consultants" for help.

Unfortunately, my office has heard too many stories of honest people trying to save their homes who are swindled by an over-promising consultant. Some of these consultants take an upfront fee and disappear. Often, their upfront fee is a few thousand dollars—large enough to matter to a homeowner in financial distress, but too small to interest attorneys in representing the defrauded homeowner.

State of California laws regulate mortgage consultants who work with homeowners after they defaulted on their loans, but there are no state laws that address consultants working with homeowners trying to avoid foreclosure. That's why I authored a City of Los Angeles law to protect homeowners from mortgage consultants looking to make a fast buck. Under the new law:

- Consultants are required to provide a contract, which includes language notifying the homeowner that these services are also available free of charge through <http://www.makinghomeaffordable.com/>
- Consultants are prohibited from charging an upfront fee
- Homeowners may sue for treble damages (which gives private attorneys more incentive to represent homeowners in these cases)

Los Angeles Neighborhood Housing Services is part of the federal government's "Making Home Affordable" program and will provide homeowners with foreclosure-related assistance free of charge. If you are concerned

about making your mortgage payment, I encourage you to contact this organization as soon as possible. The can be reached at (888) 895-2647 or you can get more information online at [www.lanhs.org](http://www.lanhs.org).

In addition, I have strongly supported a new program through which the City of Los Angeles will provide financial assistance to homeowners who are trying to lower their mortgage payments, but fall just below the requirements to receive federal aid because the value of their home has dropped significantly. The City funding would be used to help close the gap between the home's current value and the balance of the mortgage so that the homeowner can qualify for the "Making Home Affordable" program. Last month, the City Council voted to pilot this program in the Northeast San Fernando Valley and, if it is successful, it could be expanded to help other neighborhoods.

**[GREETINGS FROM TOM]  
Let's Take It  
Outside  
By L.A. City Councilmember  
Tom LaBonge**



As summer begins, the natural beauty of the Los Feliz/Silver Lake neighborhoods calls to us to get outside as often as possible. Every morning, I meet dozens of hikers on Mt. Hollywood who appreciate, as I do, the awe-inspiring views as the sun rises over the Los Angeles basin. It's a great way to begin the day. As a firm believer in the benefits to health and spirit of getting out and enjoying our natural environment, I encourage you to go out walking in your beautiful neighborhoods. Here are a few ways to do that this month:

On June 6th at 8 a.m., I hope you'll support the Griffith Park Communities Relay for Life at the Mulholland Fountain (the corner of Los Feliz Blvd. and Riverside Dr.). Every day is a blessing. My wife Brigid, who is a cancer survivor, is leading a walking team at this 24-hour relay. There will be food, games and music, and plenty of information about fighting and surviving this terrible disease. For more information on joining or supporting the Relay for Life, visit [www.relayforlife.org/griffithparkca](http://www.relayforlife.org/griffithparkca).

Two years after the devastating Griffith Park Fire of 2007, the Bird Sanctuary and Bird Sanctuary trail are finally

open again. The Griffith Park maintenance staff—along with hundreds of volunteers from the Pacific Asian Volunteer Association—have done an excellent job of restoring and improving this beautiful area of the park. We officially re-opened the trail during last month's Griffith Park Week, a celebration of the park's spectacular re-growth and renaissance since the fire.

Please join us for the annual Council District 4 Summer Solstice Hike on Monday, June 22nd. Check my office website for specifics about the hike, ([www.tomlabonge.com](http://www.tomlabonge.com)) which will involve members of Los Angeles Consular Corp and the Los Angeles Sister Cities, Inc. The gentle 1.5-mile sunset walk begins at the north end of the Griffith Observatory parking lot and follows the Charlie Turner trail to the top of Mt. Hollywood. I hope you'll join us.

**[PAUL KREKORIAN]  
Mr. Krekorian  
Goes to  
Washington  
By Calif. Assemblymember  
Paul Krekorian**



Recently, hours after flying in to Sacramento for a week of votes, meetings and attending to the business of the state, everything changed in an instant.

President Barack Obama was ready to announce aggres-

sive new fuel emission standards and wanted a multi-faceted contingent of automakers, elected officials and environmental stewards at the White House to show the nation of the plan's widespread support.

The president's new plan would set fuel efficiency standards for vehicles at 35.5 mpg by 2016, a five percent increase in fuel efficiency for new cars.

The plan represents a giant leap forward in the fight to increase the production of more fuel-efficient cars and limit the spread of global warming. It is estimated that oil consumption will be reduced by about 1.8 billion barrels nationally and significantly enhance our environment as global warming continues to wreak havoc on our natural resources. The initiative was years in the making and followed California's own proposal, passed in 2006 by the Legislature and spearheaded five years before that by then-Assemblywoman Fran Pavley, now a state Senator.

Pavley, the governor and others were set to make the trip for the president's announcement when I was asked to attend as well, owing mostly to my own piece of environmental legislation now working its way through the Assembly.

I sat feet from the president in the Rose Garden as he lauded California for leading the nation in protecting the global environment. Under President Obama's leadership, we will work closely with the

federal government to ensure that California continues leading the nation in implementing responsible and economically viable energy policy.

The impetus for my participation at the White House was AB 64, my legislation that would require utilities to fuel themselves with 33% renewable sources, like sun, wind and geothermal power by 2020. The bill will significantly upgrade our stock of renewable energy, increase the amount of green-sector jobs and create a vibrant new economy at a time when this state and nation need a reinvigorated approach to care for Mother Earth.

Watching the president, I was inspired to know that a state-federal partnership to considerably upgrade our environment is no longer a dream but a reality. In cutting greenhouse gas emissions, which will have the effect of taking 177 million of today's cars off the road, we took a strident step in ensuring our roads and air are not subject to the same dingy standards that for years have clogged our lungs.

More work remains to be done, though, and I am confident with a partner in the White House, we will work to better the rest of our environment while strengthening our economy.

*Assemblymember Paul Krekorian represents the cities of Burbank and Glendale, and parts of Los Angeles. [www.assembly.ca.gov/krekorian](http://www.assembly.ca.gov/krekorian)*

**State Route (SR-2) Freeway Terminus Improvement Project**

Join us at the upcoming Community Workshops and Public Hearing to review and comment on the SR-2 Initial Study/Environmental Assessment.

**Community Workshop**  
June 9, 2009  
6:30pm – 8:30pm  
Mayberry Elem. School  
2414 Mayberry Street  
Los Angeles, 90026

**Community Workshop**  
June 11, 2009  
6:30pm – 8:30pm  
Barlow Hospital  
Williams Hall  
2000 Stadium Way  
Los Angeles, 90026

**Public Hearing**  
June 16, 2009  
6:30pm – 8:30pm  
Mayberry Elem. School  
2414 Mayberry Street  
Los Angeles, 90026

Metro and Caltrans have released the Initial Study/Environmental Assessment (IS/EA) for the State Route 2 Freeway Terminus Improvement Project. Please plan on attending any of the above meetings to learn more about the evaluation of alternatives, including: traffic, safety, noise, aesthetics and other environmental considerations.

The 45-day public comment period is from May 18 to July 2. Public comments will be recorded by a court reporter during the community workshops and public hearing. If you're interested in mailing your comments, please send them to Irv Taylor at One Gateway Plaza MS 99-22-2, Los Angeles, CA 90012-2952, or by e-mail to [taylori@metro.net](mailto:taylori@metro.net). Mailed comments need to be postmarked no later than July 2, 2009.

For more information, please visit the project website at [www.metro.net](http://www.metro.net), or call the project helpline at 213.922.3010



**[PILGRIM SCHOOL]  
A Busy Month  
by Audrey Dalton, Grade 9**

There's been a lot going on at Pilgrim School this month. As some of you may know, we are having a summer school program in conjunction with Marlborough School. Now's the time to sign up!

Several grades had class trips, too. Grade 5 went to Astro Camp, which is in Idyllwild. Grade 4 spent some time at Malibu Creek camp, exploring the Santa Monica Mountains.

Our high school band also had a spring performance and a rock concert. And recently students put on a performance of the musical "Annie."

We also recently enjoyed prom at the Omni Hotel. (I myself was not there, since I'm a Freshman, but I am sure that it was good.)

This is Pilgrim School's 50th anniversary. Our last celebration of this will be the commencement. Our speaker will be Victoria Seaver Dean, a niece of the Seavers who donated money for a building for us back in the 60s.

**[ST. TERESA OF AVILA]**

St. Teresa of Avila School is proud to announce the graduating class of 2009, who will be graduating on June 10th. The graduates are listed along with their new high schools:

**Cathedral High School**

- Albert Ahedo
- Angel Barrueta
- Byrone De La Paz
- Armando Freire
- Luis Garibay
- Frank Gutierrez
- Jared Magsanoc
- Andres Ocon
- Tony Orozco

**Holy Family High School**

- Isabel Aldana
- Astrid Carbajal
- Kassandra Montufar
- Samantha Montufar
- Natalia Neris
- Samantha Rufino
- Audrey Soriano
- Antonia Sullivan

**Bishop Montgomery High School**

- Lauren Campbell

**Valley Christian High School**

- Fabian Coker

**John Marshall High School**

- Ashley Gonzalez
- Paul Rangel

**Immaculate Heart High School**

- Natalie Juarez
- Emilie Soriano

see St. Teresa page 9

**[FRANKLIN AVENUE ELEMENTARY]  
Pinewood Derby**

**By Jenna Patch Keady,  
5th Grade**

At Franklin Elementary, we have a Pinewood Derby. It's super-fun, creative and awesome, with games, prizes and many races.

Last year there were even real cars, some racing cars and some antiques. One went "vverirrou!" when you beeped the horn, looking like a dark green version of Chitty-Chitty-Bang-Bang.

There were contests, like Most Beautiful and Most Scary Car, and for the Fastest Cars and all the winners got ribbons.

There was a thrilling death-race, with two ramps, end-to-end, when you crash

your cars into each other and see if they survived.

Our bake sale had treats and meals, making money for our school. Our cars had names like Catometer,

Iron Unicorn, The Lovemobile, Picarso and Butterfly Love. We made them ourselves from blocks of wood sold for \$4. We transformed them into the most beautiful

things in the world! We even learned to change tires. Educational and cool!

Hope you come to this year's Pinewood Derby on Saturday, June 6th.

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**[MICHELTORENA]  
"Bach, Rock, & Shakespeare"  
at the Greek**

By Jea Bondoc & Melissa Cienega



Fiddling Around at the Greek: Jea Bondoc and Melissa Cienega, were part of the Micheltoarena orchestra.

On April 24th, 2009, Micheltoarena's advanced strings played at the Greek Theater in a show called "Bach, Rock, and Shakespeare." They played with the Marshall High School orchestra led Ms. Dee Dee Paakkari, along with young musicians from Irving and King middle schools and Mayberry and Ivanhoe elementary Schools.

Students of Mr. Jay Stollmack from Micheltoarena and Mayberry sounded wonderful playing eight songs of different types, like country, rock, and folk, including, "Can-Can," "Rockin' Strings," and Beethoven's "Ode to Joy." Four talented Micheltoarena violinists, Jea Bondoc, Luis Morales, Caitlin Pascua, and Caren Sanvictores, played solos during "Bile 'Em Cabbage Down/Cripple Creek."

The Marshall High School orchestra was the main entertainment. They played more than thirteen songs. But the highlight of the evening was when everyone played "Let It Be" by the Beatles.

Playing at the Greek Theater was a great experience because the people who did the lighting were the same people who light shows for the famous people, and use of the theater was donated. Playing at the Greek Theater will be a wonderful memory for the students to share with their children and grandchildren.

*St. Teresa from page 8*

**Ramona Convent  
Secondary**

Samantha Halsted  
Carly Lopez

Abigail Gutierrez-Budde,  
Saugus High School

Jean Claude Hasrouty,  
Providence High School

Wilfred Mejia,  
St. Francis High School

Maraya Penate,  
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[IMMACULATE HEART HIGH SCHOOL]  
**Wrapping up the School Year**  
By Suzie Shehayeb '10 and Anne Suh '10



The student body of Immaculate Heart breathed a sigh of relief after completing A.P. exams and class finals. Student worries and stress will now be replaced by a sense of excitement as classmates prepare for their summer vacation.

As Immaculate Heart's school year comes to a close, the Juniors, Sophomores, and Freshmen are also preparing to bid their Senior sisters farewell. The celebration of Class Day, which is June 1st this year, is an annual, heart-warming event in which the Immaculate Heart students celebrate the Seniors through songs, speeches, and pictures, including a slide show of baby pictures and current pictures of all the members of the senior class. At the ceremony, the spirit trophy is presented to the most enthusiastic class of the year.

After saying goodbye to their fellow students, members of the Senior class, 100 strong, will graduate at the Hollywood Bowl on June 2nd. As part of tradition, they will wear identical white gowns and carry a dozen red roses each at the ceremony. They will be sent off to their futures by their loving faculty, administration, and Immaculate Heart sisters.

[KING MIDDLE SCHOOL]  
**King Gets a Makeover**



Volunteers work on the King Vegetable Garden on Big Sunday.

**FRANKLIN HILLS**—On Sunday, May 2nd—as part of a weekend-long citywide philanthropic event called “Big Sunday”—about 400 volunteers undertook a major overhaul of King Middle School including landscaping and resodding its “amphitheater” area and installing decomposed granite pathways, a vegetable garden, fruit trees, shade trees and native drought tolerant plants.

The work was done by the joint efforts of Tomas O’Grady, treasurer of the Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council; volunteers from O’Grady’s non-profit organization, Farm Feliz; and many volunteers from Big Sunday coordinated by Los Feliz resident Dana Cremin.

Funding for the massive project came from the Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council and the Los Angeles Unified School District.

“Everyone worked togeth-

er,” said O’Grady. “This joint effort, with funds from the Griffith Park Neighborhood Council and hard work from Farm Feliz and Big Sunday people meant we did a lot with very little.”

In 2008, the GGPNC gave \$16,000 to King for such improvements. The Los Angeles Unified School District additionally provided \$2,000 and the Big Sunday organization gave the school \$3,000 to complete the work.

Organizers, met for two months in preparation of the project, which includes a mural of greetings from around the world, designed by local architect Barbara Bestor.

Others instrumental in the project were: the GGPNC’s Dr. Sarah Napier, chair of the education committee; Mark Jolley, vice principal of King; Kristen Murphy, King’s principal; Leslie Weinstein, Tina Vukovic, Adan Lopez and GGPNC secretary Mark Mauceri.

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[PEOPLE IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD]

## Susan Ji-Young Park

By Colleen Paeff, Ledger Contributing Writer

**FRANKLIN HILLS**—Susan Ji-Young Park may not live in the neighborhood, but students at Lycee International de Los Angeles (LILA), located just below the Shakespeare Bridge in Los Feliz, benefit from her presence all the same.

Park, who at one time had children attending LILA, works as a strategic partnerships expert, but her passion for helping others led her to introduce the school to the Seed Bank Project, an environmental stewardship and civic program that uses school gardens as a tool for learning.

“It’s not just about gardening,” Park said, “The kids learn science, civics, compassion. They learn to give back.”

The LILA garden grows in several Earth Boxes (maintenance-free containers) in the school’s play yard. It sits atop a wooden platform so kids can easily access the plants, but running feet can’t trample them.

“The kids did most of the

work themselves,” said Park.

The children built the boxes, planted the seedlings, transplanted the grown seedlings and harvested their crop. Parents helped too, but the children have been largely responsible for the garden themselves. Last year, 3rd graders

Edan Wingfield and Harrison Kerrison volunteered as water monitors for the project.

“Everybody wants to be there for the planting and the harvesting,” Park said, “but it’s the daily care that’s the most important part of the learning process. Edan and Harry stepped up to the plate immediately as water monitors and they never wavered from their commitment.” (Park noted that a third student, Grace Edler Von Graeve, also helped as water monitor.)

“I give a lot of credit to Edan, Harry and Grace for [their hard work]...” she said. “They volunteered from the start before it was considered kind of ‘cool’.”

Both Von Graeve and Kerrison have left the school but Wingfield continues to work on the garden as supervisor.

“I’m the boss,” he said with a mischievous grin.

Two new water monitors, Isabella Von Razow and Chloe Fish, have taken over the daily care of LILA’s garden. Both Von Razow and Fish said they were surprised by how quickly the plants grew.

What do the kids like best about gardening?

“Eating it,” said Fish.

“Eating it,” said Von Razow.

“Spraying it,” said Wingfield, “I just like killing bugs.”

After the bugs have been killed and the crop harvested, the kids do indeed get the chance to enjoy the fruits of their labor—but not all of them. Much of the first harvest went to the Bailey Center, a food bank in Tujunga. And the seeds? The students collected them so Park could pack them up and send them on the long journey to Algeria. It looks like students in Africa are benefiting from Park’s presence as well.

For more information, visit [www.farmingsfuture.org](http://www.farmingsfuture.org)



Susan Ji-Young Park with students from LILA.

## Advisory Group’s Work Downgraded

By Rachel Heller  
Ledger Contributing Writer

**GRIFFITH PARK**—After three years rewriting a draft master plan for Griffith Park, the Los Angeles Dept. of Recreation and Parks has told an advisory group that the city lacks the funds to complete the studies necessary to make their document an official “Master Plan.”

Instead, department officials are recommending adoption of the document, submitted to the city in October 2008, as a “Vision Plan,” which would lack the authority of a “Master Plan.” A Master Plan would require an environmental study, costing the city hundreds of thousands of dollars in consultant fees, said Dept. of Recreation and Parks assistant general manager Vicki Israel.

The advisory group—comprised of park advocates, neighborhood council and homeowner group members, and other local volunteers – has been meeting since July 2005 to revise a widely protested draft master plan the city commissioned in 2003.



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Pete on Sunlist. Photo by Greg Epperson.

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**Real Estate from page 1**

at least not yet. And don't expect the market curve to hit bottom and ricochet into a "V." Think of a "U"-shaped curve—and we're not in the belly of the trough yet, either.

**The Sellers**

What a depressed time to sell any asset, especially real estate. Gold seems to be about the sole exception. Still, people are willing to delay life's plans only so long. Many sellers are retiring or relocating; others' needs have changed; some can't "hold their breath" waiting for a better market any more. Thankfully, many sellers have equity left in their homes—and they're willing to sell short. These are the sellers who are finding buyers by pricing their homes aggressively-low to move conflicted buyers to action.

Then there are the rest of the sellers who hold out for the last dollar and park their homes on the Internet week after week in the vain hope that some foolish and flush buyer is ignorant of the news of the last nine months. The reality is that the longer a house sits on the market, the lower the sale price becomes, as sellers try to whittle down their prices behind a dropping market. This

phenomenon is called, "chasing the market down," and many sellers, lemming-like, chase the current kind of market off a cliff. Some sellers never get in front of the market, where they belong, and end, instead, in foreclosure.

So far, lenders—the sellers of foreclosed homes—have not dominated our local market. This role could change by the end of the year, as a new crop of today's potential foreclosures ripen this autumn and winter. As the year ends and buyers typically become fewer, lenders may resort to deeper price cuts to attract buyers—thereby exacerbating the downward price curve and erasing more equity of present homeowners.

**The Buyers**

Thanks to the Internet, today's buyers come armed with the most comprehensive market data of any group of buyers in history. And yet, many negotiate themselves out of desirable properties by a fatuous determination to "time" the market bottom. Their wealth of data leads them only to a "paralysis of analysis," as other buyers step up and cut deals with reasonable sellers.

What I'm seeing too much lately is a stalemate. Sellers



**[KEEN TO BE GREEN]**

**Sustainable Summer Parties**

By Meher McArthur, Ledger Columnist

I have recently been trying to cut down on party waste by using compostable plates and napkins and re-using plastic utensils, but guests get confused about where to throw their trash, so there's always some waste. I've found the best option is to use durable table wear and wash everything afterwards—no waste, no confusion, no harm to nature.

But, what about larger events, say a wedding, cocktail party or fundraiser?

Luckily, I recently met Meg Taylor, owner-manager of the Silver Lake-based catering company Large Marge Sustainables ([www.largemargesustainable.com](http://www.largemargesustainable.com)). In her third year of business, Taylor is busier than ever, in part because her culinary creations are so delicious. It is clear she truly loves food. But, more importantly, she respects food and the environment that has produced it.

For events, Large Marge provides durable tableware (all washed afterwards with

minimal water use), does not use plastic water bottles, delivers food and picks up picnic baskets in vehicles fueled with B99.9% biodiesel fuel, composts almost all food waste and recycles everything else.

By making sure her parties and events have a minimal environmental impact, Large Marge Sustainables leaves guests free from the guilt of trashing the planet, so that they can concentrate on savoring its delectable fruits.

think they know the market will soon be better, and buyers think they know the bottom is yet to come. Each is reluctant to move to the middle.

**The Lenders**

The current real estate market is sick, and its cure lies in the return of credit. Don't get me wrong, I long not for the heady days of cheap and easy money. We're still hung-over from that party.

But why can't a person with good credit, a 20 percent down payment, a reasonable

debt-to-income ratio and a fairly-valued house get a loan anymore?

One reason is that, since May 1st, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac require lenders choose appraisers from a pool. Who's in the pool is the issue. Lenders could be assigned an appraiser unfamiliar with the area. What else could explain what happened to one of my colleagues recently, when his buyer's appraiser under-valued a house by over 20 percent.

The lenders themselves

share plenty of blame, too. Lately, it seems that no excuse is too abstruse for a lender to use to deny approving a loan.

Last month, a deal of mine fell apart when the buyer was told that 30 percent was not enough down payment because the house was on a hillside. The bank wanted 40 percent down.

*Richard Stanley has been the top agent at the local Coldwell Banker office since 1995. [rstanley@richardstanleyrealtor.com](mailto:rstanley@richardstanleyrealtor.com).*



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**[CITY SLEUTH]**  
**Art for Children's Sake**

By Diane Kanner, Ledger Columnist

Colorful little piñatas strung from the ceiling of Yuca's Restaurant on Hollywood Boulevard were created this spring by youngsters in Laura Stickney's animal sculpture class at nearby Junior Arts Center (JAC) in Barnsdall Park. Stickney says enrollment in the adult and children's programs is "great."

The appraisal will be great news to Eunice Goodan of Los Feliz. She has not visited the park for a while, but is nearly as important to JAC's existence as Aline Barnsdall is to Hollyhock House's origin. A plaque near JAC's entry notes that Goodan was Vice President of the Municipal Art Commission in 1967 when the building was dedicated, and the organization with which she was affiliated, the Junior League of Los Angeles, helped to make JAC possible.

I visited the Junior League's headquarters on Larchmont Blvd. to check the archives for a better idea of the collaboration between the City and the League. An April 1972 article in their newsletter, "Capsule History of a Dream," begins with a timeline:

"May, 1963: Overwhelming Junior League approval to negotiate a contract with city for construction and operation of a Junior Arts Center. Financial commitment: \$70,000.

May, 1967: Dedication of the Junior Arts Center as a free arts center for all the children of Los Angeles.

January, 1970: Renewal of the last two year option on contract bringing financial commitment to over \$130,000

September, 1970: Termination of contract, Junior Arts Center becomes totally city-operated."

A November 1972 news-



Colorful piñatas, created by students at the Junior Arts Center in Barnsdall Park, are strung from the ceiling of Yuca's Restaurant on Hollywood Boulevard.

letter story contains a more poetic overview. "In 1967, the Junior League of Los Angeles gave birth to the Junior Arts Center at Barnsdall Park. If we were the mother, then the Municipal Arts Department was the father. We are now at that place when our child is ready to go out into the world on its own. Having participated in that miraculous process of giving birth, we found ourselves with a very talented child: therefore, not all our preconceived ideas of behavior held true.

"If there have been misunderstandings, perhaps the parents have again reversed the learning process and learned from the child. As Director of the Center Claire Isaacs Deussen says, "The young person who understands light, form and color also cares when trees are destroyed by smog. The child who is free to experiment, to fail and to try new solutions to problems of his own design is a child who will make a creative scientist, engineer, mechanic, doctor or social worker, as well as an artist."

Later I found the art instructor, Laura Stickney, at the Los Feliz branch, Los Angeles Public Library, leading an afternoon art class, an outreach effort she's led for the last 10 years. Still patient after leaning over works in progress for two hours, she shared her take on how the JAC has persevered.

"It was beautifully and lovingly founded which has helped it be strong through all

the challenges. I'd compare it to having a good constitution."

**Summer Classes at JAC**

JAC summer session, July 6-August 29, with courses for children, teens and adults. Registration begins June 20, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Center, 4814 Hollywood Blvd. (323) 644-6275 and www.juniorartscenter.org and www.culturela.org with class and workshop links.

Los Feliz Branch, LAPL, 1874 Hillhurst Ave., Friday family art classes for children, parents, grandparents and caregivers, 4-5 p.m. July 17, August 14, Sept. 18, Oct. 16, Nov. 20. Art show on Dec. 18.

**Keller Williams Moves to Hillhurst**

**LOS FELIZ**—After five years on Hollywood Boulevard, Keller Williams Los Feliz has outgrown its space and has moved to Hillhurst Avenue.

"While other offices are downsizing in this market, I'm proud to say we are still growing," said Anthony Vulin,

Team Leader and Broker.

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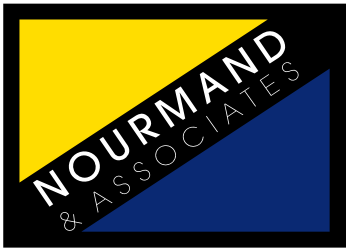
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[SENIOR MOMENTS]  
**There's Even A Month For Us!**

By Stephanie Vendig, Ledger Columnist

Did you know that May is Older Americans Month? I didn't, not until the U.S. Census bureau sent me a press release from their web site page ([www.census.gov/Press-Release/](http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/)). In 1963 President John F. Kennedy designated May as Senior Citizens Month. President Jimmy Carter's proclamation changed the name to Older Americans Month, celebrating those 65 and older through ceremonies, events and public recognition.

The magic age of 65 for declaring yourself "old," when you formally retire, receive Medicare, or take your full benefits from Social Security may be chang-

ing. What we assumed 30 years ago has changed mainly because most of us are living longer. The U.S., like other industrialized nations, is having an ongoing debate on how to balance the economic needs of a growing-older population with the needs of the younger population.

Statistics from the Census Bureau reveal some of these changes. On July 1st, 2007, the 65-and-older population was 37.9 million, accounting for 13% of the total population, increasing to 20% by 2050. Also, 5.5 million were 85 and older, and the estimated centenarians on Nov. 1, 2008 were 96,548, expecting to increase to 601,000

by 2050. Getting to 100 is not so strange these days.

And where are these older Americans? California (4 million) has the most, with Florida second. However, Florida (17%) has the highest percentage of 65 and older in their total population. Only 4% of the 65-and-older group lived in nursing facilities in 2007. Overall, 65% lived with relatives and 27% lived alone.

Living longer impacts the support system of marriage. In 2007, for these age group, 54% were married and 31% were widowed. There are 73 men 65 and older for every 100 women, but for those over 85, it drops to 48 men per 100 women. And the retiring 65-year-old is becoming less common as the percentage of people in the work force after 65 years (15%) increases (5.8

million people in 2007 and 10.1 million by 2016).

On the other hand, it is impressive to learn that 74% of the people 65 and older in 2007 had graduated from high school and 19% have earned a bachelor's degree or higher and 7.3 million took adult education courses (8% of students) in 2004-05. This is quite different from our parents' generation.

Does this all matter? I think so. Older Americans do need to be celebrated. They just can't be pushed aside to make way for the young. Our country needs to respond to the dependent needs of an increasing older population. But, at the same time, we need to utilize their skills and wisdom that, regardless of age, contribute to our wellbeing.

**Summer & Seniors**

By Wendy Caputo

When summer heats up, most of us look forward to several weeks of fun, hot weather activities. Whether you travel, or enjoy local summer activities, take a moment to think of your older family members, friends or neighbors who could use some support.

As temperatures rise,

make sure the elders in your life have functioning air conditioning or fans. Make sure they are getting plenty of water. Dehydration can happen quickly, and be devastating.

Regardless of season, there are many older adults who have transportation or nutritional needs. Connect them with local community resources. There are

many local senior multipurpose centers who offer affordable congregate meal programs and some transportation options, as well as social programs. For homebound individuals, meal delivery is available.

For information about these programs: LA City Department of Aging; <http://aging.lacity.org>. LA County Senior Services: <http://css.lacounty.gov>.

**Griffith Park Adult Community Club Calendar**

**General Meeting: Wednesday, June 17, 2009, 12 pm - 3:00 p.m., Gourmet Potluck at the home of Bea Gold, 2206 Micheltorena St.**

**Bring your favorite dish ready to serve.**

**Call Bea at (323) 660-0106 for information and directions.**

**Call GPACC (323) 644-5579 for other special events.**

**Call Doris Slater at (323) 667-1879**

**for information on trips for July and August.**

**Join the "Moving On" group for widows and widowers. The group meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month for sharing and support as you move into a new phase of your life. June 12th, 2009, 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 pm**

**Classes**

Contact Griffith Park Adult Community Center (GPACC) at (323) 644-5579 or stop by at 3203 Riverside Dr., in the parking lot of Friendship Auditorium south of Los Feliz Blvd to get a schedule of classes and events.

Silver Lake Recreation Center at 1850 W. Silver Lake Dr. (323) 644-3946 will also have classes.

**The Lunch Program:** Lunch is served 5 days a week at the Center. \$1.75 is a donation for those over 60 years. Daily lunch is served at 12 pm. Come early for coffee and sign in at 11:30.

For Information on the Griffith Park Adult Community Club and getting a newsletter, call Stephanie Vendig at (323) 667-3043, or e-mail at [vendig@sbglobal.net](mailto:vendig@sbglobal.net) or call Jeanne Phipps at (323) 664-2681.

**Programs for Free-Thinking Seniors!**

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**Budget Scare from page 1**

funding at \$45,000. Calls and e-mails flooded City Hall as well, from concerned stakeholders, community members and Neighborhood Council representatives.

"The Neighborhood Councils acted in a very timely way," said BongHwan Kim, General Manager at the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, the city organization that oversees all neighborhood councils. "They were able to get [funding] restored before it even went back to council."

The 10 percent cut is in keeping with the mayor's proposal to close the nearly \$530 million deficit in the city's 2009-2010 budget, in part through a 10 percent cut across the board for all city departments. Funding for the city's 89 Neighborhood

Councils would fall under the 10 percent cut, reducing each council's annual total from \$50,000 to \$45,000.

"Everybody's on board," said Crissi Avila, treasurer of the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council. "The Neighborhood Councils don't see that as a problem. They're supportive of it."

O'Grady had a similar response.

"Everyone at the GG-PNC believes we should take a 10 percent cut, like everyone else," he said.

Neighborhood Councils spend their allocated funds on assisting with projects such as festivals, beautification and education, and money that is not spent in a given fiscal year is rolled over to the next.

The City Council's approved budget, however, calls for cutting spending from \$4 million to \$2.2 million for

Neighborhood Council elections in the upcoming year.

According to Kim, the city's Budget and Finance Committee was "taken aback" by the cost of elections. To cut costs, the City Clerk's office, which is responsible for administering elections, he said, will not fund mailings and outreach around the 2010 election.

The budget will now go back to the Mayor, who has the option of vetoing line items before making a final approval by June 1st.

O'Grady stated that this budget scare sends a clear message to all Neighborhood Councils.

Neighborhood Councils, he said, "need to do our part to show the citizens that we can do more with less." That means, being stingy with [taxpayer's] money. Past GGPNC decisions to pay for newsletters at a cost of \$8,900, airline trips and hotel stays by board members and laptops must never happen again."

**GGPNC from page 4**

ther from other neighborhood councils, urging the board to rethink their process.

But the board was not swayed.

Regarding only elected members having the ability to appoint and vote on appointments, Nyla Arslyanian, an appointed member, said the notion would create a "class system" of the board.

"That will make us very divided," said Sarah Napier, also an appointed member.

Others just simply thought the change unnecessary and possibly damaging to the board.

"We've had a history of a lack of success with elected members," said Ken Owen. "We've done better with appointed positions."

Those voting in favor of reducing the number of appointed positions were: Mark Mauceri, Tomas O'Grady,

**Senator from page 1**

Some of the bigger issues discussed, according to Liu, were the need for a teen community center; the need to transform Glendale Boulevard into a destination, not just a thoroughfare; and the lack of adult education in Atwater.

"She was very responsive," said Newman-Kuzel, who introduced Liu to a number of merchants as they walked up and down the strip.

Newman-Kuzel said Liu was especially receptive to

the idea of benches, flags and banners to jazz up Glendale Boulevard and to get people walking.

"Now everybody just whizzes by," he said.

After her tour, Liu said the trip went "really well" and was impressed with all the "strong women in Atwater." She said she'd review everything that was discussed and starting putting things into action as soon as she could.

She also promised she'd be back soon for more brownies.



Liu, shopping at Amelia Fitzwater.

Photo by Marie Chao

Tor Hyams, Ron Ostrow and Alex De Ocampo. The counts on other votes, including various amendments to O'Grady's original two motions, were not tallied as it was obvious—from a hand count—they had lost.

Rosemary DeMonte, an appointed member who heads the board's outreach committee, said in an e-mail to the

Ledger: "This was brought to the people as a problem that did not exist and the Board has been damaged by this. We have been put in a position of damned if we do or don't."

But Mauceri disagreed.

"The public spoke loud and clear," he said. "This group has turned its back on the public."

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Pot Stores from page 1

"There might be too many of us," said Peter Papazyan, manager of one of the dispensaries called LA Collective, which opened eight months ago.

The four dispensaries—LA Collective, Friendly Collective, Global Meds Collective and A.A.C.C.—sell medical marijuana to any patient with a medical marijuana card. Doctors prescribe cards to individuals with ailments ranging from cancer and AIDS to stress and insomnia.

"We're helping people by taking away their pain. We're not hurting the community," said Papazyan. "For many of these people, marijuana is the only thing that works."

Concerned residents don't necessarily take issue with the dispensaries' function. But they are complaining that what the dispensaries are selling is getting into the hands of the wrong people—young adults.

Atwater isn't the only community grappling with this issue. Los Angeles has as many as 500 dispensaries according to some estimates. That makes Los Angeles home to more medical dispensaries than any city in America, according to a recent KCET "So-Cal Connected" investigation.

"They're popping up everywhere," said one Los Angeles Police Dept. officer in the narcotics unit.

Which begs the question, how did they all get here?

Back in 1996 California broke with federal laws and became the first of now 13 states to allow individuals and

their caregivers to "possess, cultivate and transport" marijuana for medical purposes.

Shortly after, dispensaries began sprouting up throughout Los Angeles. Residents complained that there were too many, prompting the Los Angeles City Council to pass a temporary ban on new medical dispensaries. That became law Sept. 14, 2007 and is set to expire this Sept. 14th.

A.A.C.C., who chose not to comment for this story, moved in to Atwater during the moratorium. At the time the ban went into effect, there were 186 dispensaries in the Los Angeles. Now there are several hundred, according to KCET.

Many of these rogue clinics are applying for "hardship exemptions," what some have deemed loopholes in the ban. Anyone who wants to open a dispensary fills out an application explaining why they should be permitted to open despite the moratorium. While dispensaries aren't legally allowed to open until their hardship application has been approved, many are doing so anyways.

According to the KCET investigation, not a single hardship exemption application has been processed since 2007. Still, no government body is forcing these facilities to shut down.

Many in the Los Angeles city council have taken positions on the issue.

"I'm opposed to granting these exemptions to the Atwater Village dispensaries that have requested them," said

Council President Eric Garcetti, who represents the area.

While the issue is beginning to stir up controversy, many in Atwater don't know these dispensaries exist. Just one in two dozen people at the local post office were even aware they were any dispensaries in the neighborhood.

"We didn't know they were there. And there hasn't been anything that's come to my attention or given me pause," said Atwater Elementary principal, Karen Sulahian. There was a similar response from administrators at John Marshall High School.

However, the Atwater Village News blog says city authorities first became aware of these marijuana dispensaries "through complaints from local residents and businesses that visitors to the marijuana dispensaries are smoking their purchases in public view, often in parked cars next to the public library."

Papazyan, who manages LA Collective directly across from the library, says he hasn't heard any complaints from anyone. He's even hired a security guard to prevent people from loitering.

"We only hear from happy neighbors. I'd like to hear what other residents have to say," he said.

While local police haven't seen an increase in youth related drug use, an anonymous narcotics officer said the number of people who are growing plants in their homes is on the rise.

"People are just finding really creative ways to milk the system," he said.

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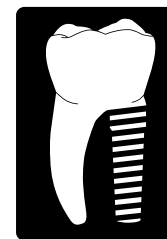
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[EASTSIDE EYE]

## 40th Annual New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival Recap

By Kathy A. McDonald, Ledger Columnist



To spend a day listening to great live music is a rare pleasure. At the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival there are seven mind-boggling days of musical offerings on 12 stages and one-on-one interviews with famed musicians like Dr. John and Allen Toussaint, all paired with wide-ranging arts and

lap in the steamy jazz tent for his set.

Now the fest has vast canopied tents that seat thousands with indoor/outdoor carpeting, cooling, overhead misting and impressive sound systems. Attendance has almost returned to pre-Katrina numbers. Among the hundreds of artists performing this year



Los Feliz's Ben Harper appears at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival with his new band Relentless 7.

crafts for sale, culinary demonstrations and renowned fair food such as soft-shelled crab po-boys, iced café au lait and freshly shucked Gulf oysters by the dozen.

2009 marked the 25th anniversary of my first visit to Jazz Fest and my twelfth foray to the Fair Grounds racecourse, the event's sprawling site. Much has changed in 25 years: in 1984, artists performed on stages crafted from flatbed trailers and the gospel tent was borrowed from the sponsor—a funeral home. Crowds were much sparser. Fans could get extremely close to performers: I stood steps from Jerry Lee Lewis in a duet with Fats Domino and was practically in Mose Allison's

were L.A.'s own Los Lobos, Los Feliz's Ben Harper appearing with his new band Relentless 7 and Wilco that features lead guitarist Nels Cline of Eagle Rock. Headliners that still rocked included Bonnie Raitt and Neil Young—who wowed with his guitar antics and closer, The Beatles' "A Day in the Life."

Serving as the true soul of the multi-day soundfest are local New Orleans performers like newcomer Theresa Andersson or club faves like Dash Rip Rock or the electrifying Irvin Mayfield who conducted the New Orleans Jazz Orchestra and welcomed his four year old son on stage for a trombone solo.

Festival organizers cus-

tomarily showcase atypical international artists. The Crocodile Gumboot Dancers of South Africa were absolutely spellbinding; Malian singer and storyteller Cheick Hamala Diabate memorably demonstrated the banjo's African heritage by turning it upright so that it mimicked an ngoni, Africa's traditional stringed lute.

Expect the 41st annual festival to carry on the rich tradition: it begins Friday, April 23rd, 2010—so mark your calendars now. Information can be found at [www.nojazzfest.com](http://www.nojazzfest.com).

[EASTSIDE EYE]

## Picks for June

Cirque Berzerk, the raucous alternative circus with jaw-dropping acrobatics, aerialists, fiery burlesque dancers and more, opens June 18th for weekend performances through July 5 at downtown's Los Angeles State Historic Park, 1245 N. Spring St., [www.cirqueberzerk.com](http://www.cirqueberzerk.com).

Granite Frontiers: A Century of Yosemite Climbing opens June 12th at the Autry National Center of the American West and chronicles the drama, beauty and sheer athleticism required for climbing the famed park's granite faces.

May 30th is the opening date for the new expanded American art galleries at the Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens. [www.huntington.org](http://www.huntington.org).



[THEATER REVIEW]

## Local Appears in "Noir" Play at the Attic Theater

By Marilyn Oliver, Ledger Theater Critic

Local Los Feliz resident Drew Droege is currently appearing in the world premiere of "Nights of Noir," at the Attic Theatre.

A Los Feliz resident for nine years, Droege hails from North Carolina. His first love was improvisation, so it's no surprise that he ended up acting and teaching at The Groundlings, Los Angeles' principal comedy theater.

"I'm more a character actor," Droege said. "I would love to be creative forever. My dream is to be in a sitcom," he added.

"Nights of Noir" is an evening of two 40s themed one-act whodunits called "Nights of Love" and "Dicks and Dames." The plays are hosted by burlesque star Honey Ima Home who also performs occasional burlesque routines. In "Marked for Love," Droege portrays the Thin Man and in "Dicks and Dames," a porno king.

He enjoys living in Los Feliz because everything is close at hand to his Vermont Avenue apartment.

"I love being able to walk outside to restaurants, a theater and a book store," he said.

Locals may have noticed a new theater on Hyperion Avenue, the Lyric Hyperion Theatre Café. The site had been a theater in earlier incarnations, but it has been totally redone by Alan Becker who hopes to

make it a center for innovative theater in Silver Lake.

The theater will host a production of "True West" by Sam Shepherd opening on June 19th. The play is directed and produced by Wendy Obstler. The theater also hosts a writers' group twice a month in which works in progress are read by actors. In July there will also be an acting camp for kids.



Drew Droege

"Nights of Noir," through June 27th, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. at the Attic Theatre, 5429 W. Washington Blvd. General admission, \$15; Students and seniors, \$7.50. Reservations, (323) 960-1055; online at [www.plays411.com/nightsloflove](http://www.plays411.com/nightsloflove)

"True West" by Sam Shepherd opens June 19th and runs through July 25 at the Lyric Theatre, 2106 Hyperion Ave., Friday and Saturday nights at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$18 advance; \$20 at the door. Reservations: 1-800-4TIX.



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[RESTAURANT NEWS]

## East Side Eateries Heat Up

By Pat Saperstein, Ledger Contributing Writer

The local restaurant scene has been mostly quiet in Los Feliz, simmering in Echo Park and exploding in Silver Lake lately. With Italian cuisine at Domenico, seasonal rustic at Reservoir and small plates and wine at Barbrix, it's hard to decide which spot to try first.

**Barbrix** is the newest entry in the neighborhood, located in a remodeled house opposite Baller Hardware. While cars often treat Hyperion Ave. as a racetrack, Barbrix is set well back from the street, with valet parking available. Inside, there's a wine bar in front and more counter seating overlooking the bustling open kitchen in the back, with several tables in the middle. Patio seating is likely to be in brisk demand on warm summer evenings. Owners Claudio Blotta and Adria Tennor Blotta have curated an interesting wine list with excellent price points, including choices from Portugal, Slovenia and Croatia. Not an oenophile? Even the beer list is unusual and carefully thought-out.

Small plates from chef Don Dickman range from \$4-\$13, with zippy Mediterranean-inspired flavors like roasted cauliflower salad with charroula dressing and Niman range pork belly with salsa verde. Several well-chosen cheeses and a selection of charcuterie provide plenty of savory flavors to pair with wine and beer.

\*\*\*

Owner Domenico Frasca took over the small Michelangelo space for his namesake Italian restaurant **Domenico**, keeping the popular Silver Lake Boulevard sidewalk seating and giving the inside an

airy white makeover. From rootbeer-braised Kobe short-ribs to Italian fare such as fusilli pasta with wild boar ragu (\$21), homemade red beet tortellini, risotto with blueberries and ricotta pinenut tart, Domenico's dishes bring a more original twist to the all-too-familiar standard Italian menu. A liquor license is in the works.

\*\*\*

**Reservoir** was under construction for two and a half years in the former Netty's space on Silver Lake Boulevard, so neighbors were eager to see how the oddly-designed, chainlink-surrounded house would transform into a cozy, upscale restaurant.

Owner Gloria Felix took down the fence and completely redid the house and patio, and now there's nary a sign of its long-ago burger stand heritage. There is a house burger though, along with sophisticated seasonal fare such as a cowboy ribeye steak, black cod, open-face lasagna and chorizo and quince pizza.

Main dishes are served with "set-ups"—a side dish assortment of say, polenta, peas and chanterelle mushrooms, or farro, grilled asparagus and broccoli rabe. Main dishes are \$18-\$32, and though the wine list has only about a dozen choices, they're all available by the glass. Few diners can resist the chocolate assortment dessert plate (\$12), with milk chocolate anise pot de crème, spicy hot cocoa, lava cake, Guinness ice cream, toffee and peppermint bark.

**Pat Saperstein blogs about L.A. restaurants at EatingLA.com**

[A DOG'S LIFE]

## Have Dog, Will Travel



By Jennifer Clark, Ledger Columnist

With the summer travel season upon us, it's no doubt that many dog lovers will spend the warmer months en route with their four legged friends—and it's important to do so safely.

If traveling by car, be sure that your dog is protected. The two best methods are either placing the dog in a crate or securing it with a pet safety harness that works like a seatbelt. Dogs should be taken out frequently for potty breaks and exercise. Never leave your dog unattended in the car. Even with the windows left open, the temperature can reach 120 degrees within minutes.

Although trains in Europe welcome dogs, in the U.S., dogs are banned from locomotives unless they are sight assistance dogs. Cruise ships also rarely allow canines, so be sure and contact them ahead of time as some may have kennel facilities.

While plane travel is our speediest form of transportation, it's best that dogs aren't airborne unless absolutely necessary. Approximately 5,000 animals are lost, injured or killed because of airplane travel, according to the Airline Transportation Association. Small dogs can be placed in a carrier under the seat in front of you. If your dog has to go in the cargo area of the plane, be sure that you contact individual airlines for their specific requirements and include any medical records they may need.

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[THE GOOD LIFE]

## The Story of Champagne

By Paul Hickey, Ledger Columnist

Ever wondered why champagne is so expensive? Dom Perignon, Piper Heidsick, Perrier Jouet and the likes run over a \$100 a bottle and lots more if purchased in a restaurant. Why is that, you may ask, when Christian Brothers and Gallo can produce perfectly delightful champagnes for less than \$10?

Champagne, as made by the original Benedictine Monks, was produced in the individual bottle and stored in racks underground where the temperature is constant.

Each day, the monks

would turn every bottle in the racks a quarter of a turn. This process takes several years. By the end of the process the bottles, which started on their

**Champagne, as made by the original Benedictine Monks, was produced in the individual bottle and stored in racks underground where the temperature is constant.**

sides, are now upside down and the sediment has collected in the neck of the bottle. (The dimple in the bottom of a champagne bottle keeps the sediments from settling across the bottle's bottom.)

The necks of the bottles are placed in an icy brine bath which freezes the liquid—sediment and all—into an easily

removed plug of ice and that results in a small empty space in the champagne.

Finally, comes the dosage, a closely guarded secret with each champagne maker that consists of sugar and flavorings that makes each company's product distinct. The dosage replaces the missing volume removed with the sediment. This process is known as methode champenoise.

Here's an additional way to enjoy champagne: try a Cham-Chams: a quarter ounce of Chambord—the French raspberry liqueur—poured into the bottom of a flute and filled with champagne.

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[ JUNE 2009 EVENTS CALENDAR ]

**Art**

**"These Are Strange Times My Dear,"** a joint exhibition by Catia Chien, Dany Paragouteva and CJ Metzger. This group show features the artist's interpretations of our current socio-economic and political instability. Through June 6th Black Maria Gallery 3137 Glendale Blvd. (323) 660-9393 www.blackmariagallery.com

**"Cool Globes,"** exhibition features 50 globes made by local, national, international artists and school children. This exhibition teaches awareness in the fight to stop global warming. Each globe weighs over 2,300 pounds and were created using recycled materials. Through July 23rd. Exposition Park, Rose Garden www.coolglobes.com

**"Sparkle and Twang:** Marty Stuart's American Musical Odyssey," an interactive exhibition features country music icon, Marty Stuart who shares his experience performing with legendary musicians, Elvis Presley and Johnny Cash. Through Aug. 23rd

Autry National Center  
4700 Western Heritage Way  
(323) 667-2000  
www.autrynationalcenter.org

**"Sketches and Drawings,"** exhibition features works by renowned Los Angeles Architect, Richard Neutra. Through Sept. 6th Richard J. Riordan Central Library Getty Gallery, 2nd Floor 630 W. Fifth St  
Reservations: (213) 228-7500  
www.libfnd@lapl.org

**"Pompeii and the Roman Villa: Art and Culture around the Bay of Naples"** exhibition, thru Oct. 4th Los Angeles County Museum of Art 5905 Wilshire Blvd. (323) 857-6000 www.lacma.org

**Books**

**Atwater Village Library Monthly Used Book Sale**  
June 20th, 10:00 a.m.  
3379 Glendale Blvd. (323) 664-1353

**Skylight Literary Monthly Salon:** Come mingle with Skylight bookstore staff members as they discuss independent publishers. Fine wine and cheeses served.

June 20th, 4:00 p.m. Free admission  
Skylight Books  
1818 N. Vermont Ave. (323) 660-1175  
www.skylightbooks.com

**Friends of the Los Feliz Library Monthly Used Book Sale**  
June 27th, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Los Feliz Library  
1874 Hillhurst Ave. (323) 913-4710

**Clubs**

**Los Angeles Breakfast Club**  
Wednesdays, 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.  
Friendship Auditorium, 3201 Riverside Dr., Public welcome.

**Teen LA Summer Reading Kick-Off Program:**  
A great after-school event where teens can meet in a safe learning environment.  
June 18th, 4:00 p.m.  
Edendale Library  
2011 W. Sunset Blvd. (213) 207-3000

**Children**

The Red Chair Children's Production Company Presents:  
A school children's recital of various types of dance including, ballet, jazz, hip-hop, and tap. Performance also features a neo-classical ballet work inspired by Cirque de Soliel.  
June 7th, 1:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m.  
Alex Theatre  
216 N. Brand Blvd. (818) 243-2539  
www.alextheatre.org

**Dance**

Dance Downtown Series:  
**International Standard Ballroom,** June 12th  
**International Standard Latin Ballroom,** June 26th  
Beginner lessons begin at 6:30 p.m.  
Free Admission  
Music Center  
135 N. Grand Ave. (213) 972-3660  
www.musiccenter.org

**Food**

**"It's A Great Day of Singing,"** musical selections from operas, operettas, and musical theatre with piano accompaniment.

Program includes a champagne reception and a catered lunch will be served. June 17th, 11:15 a.m. Tickets: \$20, reservations recommended.  
Contact: Aida Monte, (323) 851-0271, aidamonte19@gmail.com  
Woman's Club of Hollywood  
1749 N. La Brea Avenue  
Free parking is available.

**Politics**

**Silver Lake Neighborhood Council**  
June 2nd, 7:00 p.m.  
1511 Micheltorena St.  
Micheltorena Street Elementary School  
www.SilverLakeNC.org

**Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council**  
June 15th, 7:00 p.m.  
Los Feliz Community Police Center  
1965 Hillhurst Ave., 2nd floor  
www.ggpnc.org

**Music**

Enjoy a beautiful summer evening with the sounds of the **UCLA Gluck Saxophone Quartet,** June 4, 6:30 p.m. Free Admission  
Echo Park Library  
1410 W. Temple St. (213) 250-7808

**Latin Jazz Sounds Concerts**  
Grupo Falso Baiano, June 6th;  
Louie Cruz Beltran, June 13th;  
Justo Almario Afro-Columbian Project, June 20th; Bobby Rodriguez Latin Jazz, June 27th. Concerts are 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Free Admission. Dorothy Collins Brown Amphitheater, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, 5905 Wilshire Blvd. (323) 857-6115 www.lacma.org

**"Sizzling" Nights at the Autry**

The Autry National Center's "Sizzling Summer Nights," are back this season offering an all-ages dance party Thursday nights this July and August from 6 p.m.-9 p.m.  
Complimentary dance instruction is available.

**Lectures & Learning**

**All Space Considered:** A 90-minute presentation curated by observatory staff and special guests on astronomy, space exploration, and space science. June 5th, 7:30 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. Free Admission  
Griffith Observatory, 2800 East Observatory Rd. (213) 473-0800 or www.griffithobservatory.org

**"Our Nature,"** Lecture Series: "The Last Tortoise: Why Tortoises May Become 21st Century Victims of Extinction." Narration by Dr. Craig Stanford, Professor, Anthropology and Behavioral Sciences, USC. June 6th, 10:00 a.m. Reservations required. Contact: Betty Dunbar (310) 379-3022 betty@the-dunbars.com  
Witherbee Auditorium  
Los Angeles Zoo  
5333 Zoo Drive www.lazoo.org

**Theatre**

Musical Theatre Guild Presents: **Violet,** based on a book by Brian Crowley. Ride the emotional road trip of a young woman's life in her search of beauty, and how she believes a T.V. preacher will make her dreams come true. June 15th, 7:30 p.m.  
Alex Theatre, 216 N. Brand Blvd. (818) 243-2539 www.alextheatre.org

**Sports/Charity**

**Fight Against Cancer Relay for Life**  
June 6th, 7th, 8:00 a.m.  
Mulholland Fountain, Los Feliz Blvd. & Riverside Dr.  
www.relayforlife.org/griffithparkca

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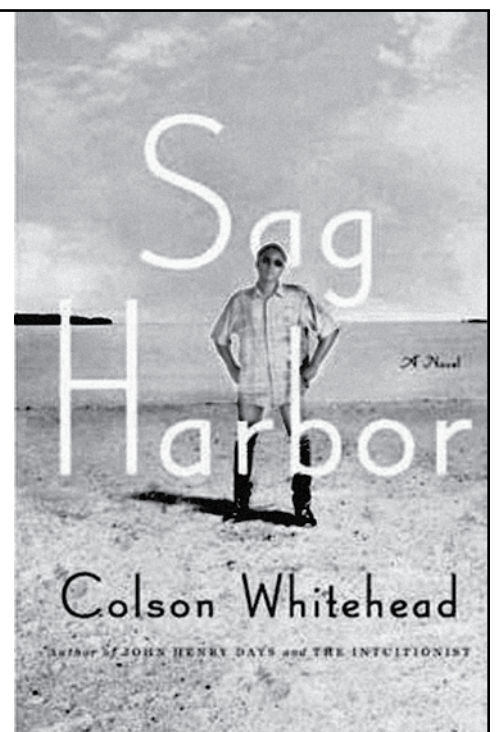
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[FAMILY MATTERS]

**It's 10 pm. Do You Know Where Your Teenager Is?**

By Kristen Taylor, Ledger Columnist



"It's 10 pm. Do you know where your child is?" Parents of a certain age probably remember that public service announcement slogan from childhood. It became embedded in pop culture not only because it ran incessantly, but also because it mildly impugned parents everywhere for not doing their jobs.

For most children, it was inconceivable that their mom or dad wouldn't know where they were at 10 o'clock at night. But this commercial hinted otherwise. It suggested that my parents were possibly fallible. The slogan also implied that if my parents didn't know where I was, it was their fault, not mine. They were the ones who would be trouble with the law, not me (So there! Stick out tongue, stomp away, and slam bedroom door).

Thirty years later, the LAPD might consider re-running those very PSAs. With summer upon us, it may be time for at least a parental refresher course on Los Angeles'

curfew laws. Curfew laws? Yes, indeed. It is illegal for children under 18 to be outdoors, in public places, or on the road between 10 p.m. and sunrise, unless they are accompanied by a parent, on a parent-directed errand, at work, or coming or going directly from home. And unlike what the 70s era PSA hinted, curfew violations can result in fines, penalties, and community service for kids—not for their folks.

It's interesting to consider the intent of this law. Is it to protect our kids, or protect other people from our kids? I suspect it's a little of both.

But the fact of this law made me a little sad. Our eastside neighborhood bubble often feels a lot like the small town neighborhood I grew up in on the east coast, where on many nights, I drove from dances to parties to restaurants (if I-HOP can be considered a restaurant). I hadn't realized that when my own kids are 16 or 17, they won't be able to do that too.

Then I remembered the ridiculous, sometimes dangerous trouble my friends and I got into, and I came up with a new slogan that the LAPD can feel free to use: "You're under 18 and it's 10 pm. Go home."

**LeRoy Named 2009 Women's Health Hero**

SILVER LAKE—Local therapist Jessica LeRoy, has been named as one of "20 Our Bod-

ies Ourselves Women's Health Heroes" for 2009.

The 20 women selected represent the United States, Canada, Australia, The Netherlands, Nigeria, the United Kingdom and Ukraine. Nearly 100 nominations were submitted for consideration.

The award recognizes individuals and organizations that have made a significant, long-lasting contribution to women's health.

LeRoy was chosen for her work as a therapist specializing

in helping women. Read more about Women's Health Heroes and LeRoy's story at <http://www.ourbodiesourblog.org/womens-health-heroes-2009>.

Look for the July edition of the Los Feliz Ledger on July 2nd

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**[EDITORIAL]**  
**Mighty Pricey Crumbs**

As the buildings finally rise on the site of the former Van de Kamps (VdK) bakery, we are asking how the almost \$71 million of tax payer funding to build a Los Angeles Community College (LACC) North East Satellite Campus turned into 2/3rds of a campus, and a collection of tenants, among them a possible charter school, but without accredited college level classes.

With Prop AA, we specifically voted for an adult education facility. What we are getting is a charter school with a fence decorated with symbols of baked goods, in the words of LACCD "the baking heritage of the community." Or, as Coalition to Save Van de Kamp's co founder Netty Carr put it, "it looks like now all we're getting for \$70 million in taxpayer dollars are the cupcake fence and the crumbs."

Mighty pricey crumbs.

The original pre-bond plans included a third building being built through a \$20 million fund raising drive. With the Prop AA Bond funded project, we were promised a third building—a multipurpose auditorium that would have facilitated large lectures, movies, and theatrical uses to the benefit of both campus students and the local community.

The two-building campus we now have was originally budgeted without the need of ANY bond funding. Who is standing to be accountable for \$20 million of value squandered?

The "team" of LACCD players now making the rounds are saying that it's only the bad economy and budget cuts are to blame. The real story is not so simple and not so innocent. Some members of that team

are far from innocent players who deliberately set out to stall the campus into what it is now buildings being leased out by the district to obtain funds from a collection of tenants – not an LACC satellite campus.

Our campus has fallen prey to infighting and politics at the city, LACC, LACCD and the Board of Trustees. Had it been completed at any of the promised completion dates from 2005, 2006 or late 2007 we would have a functioning LACC satellite campus. Period.

First the city tried to hand off the site to developers but the VdK Coalition, and then State Senator Richard Polanco stopped that. Polanco found \$3 million in seed money and got the campus construction funded through \$61 million in Prop AA bonds that we voted for.

Then the internal LACC

and LACCD politics started, resulting in fatal stalling through studies of the already completed studies, and revisions of revisions. The internal foes of this project held it up in every way possible, stalling with make work, expensive studies of studies and endless pointless plan revisions. They know the system well and they knew how to use it, they ran the clock out while building costs escalated and operating funds diminished. They knew full well what they were doing; they knew that every day of delay diminished the chances of the satellite campus ever opening.

Now we are in the final rounds. The Coalition has asked for a complete accounting of all money spent on the project. We've been told that will be coming in 2 weeks. Public record act requests are being

prepared to get to the bottom of this. LACCD officials are racing to sign contracts with paying tenants and the community is struggling for the promised higher education that is much needed. The VDK Coalition remains fully committed that a viable adult community college with adult educational components goes into that site. We are currently working on a web site that will have a full account of names, timeline, and materials collected over the past 10 years. To be place on our email list, sign up for actions alerts, or to let us hear your thoughts, please email us at vdkcoalition@gmail.com.

*The steering committee of the Coalition wrote this editorial: co-founders Andrew Garston and Netty Carr with members Miki Jackson and Laura Gutierrez.*

**[EDITORIAL]**  
**It Takes A Village...**  
By Jonathan Sample

As a neighborhood, we might learn a bit from the African proverb that encourages community in the successful development of its children. The general sentiment expressed in the Nigerian saying is that no one person is responsible for the success of such an important endeavor. It is, the group, that cares for, nourishes, leads and encourages the child to blossom into a healthy and productive adult. Similar to that in many ways, is the development and preservation of a glorious neighborhood such as our Los Feliz.

Rich in history, cultural and economic diversity, architecture and the arts, Los Feliz is a neighborhood that has charm and character that cannot easily be found elsewhere in the city.

Unbeknownst to most, the very qualities that have attracted us all to live, work, play, shop or conduct business in the area are preserved and perpetuated by a number of volunteer groups from the area as well as groups that function within the city: the Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council (GG-PNC www.ggpnc.org); The Los Feliz Improvement Association (LFIA www.lfia.org) and The Los Feliz Village Business Improvement District (LFVBID www.losfeliz.biz)

Recent months have seen a significant amount of community involvement largely centered around the LFVBID. A new, larger Board of Members has been established, an ambitious set of goals outlined by each of the committees and a restructuring of many processes is underway.

In addition, an opposition movement to the existence of the BID, has brought the concerns of some community members to light and is now working with the BID to review and implement a list of suggested reforms. The important thing to note is that those involved, on one side or the other, are working toward a better community.

It is the responsibility of us all, who enjoy the many fruits of the neighborhood what we can give. The next time you have a hard time parking or receive a parking ticket, think about how you can help fix that problem so your neighbor doesn't suffer the same fate.

You can be sure that one of the aforementioned groups, if not all, are working to alleviate that challenge or any other that you might encounter. The people that make-up those groups are just like you, homeowners, small business people, employees, parents, students AND volunteers.

So what can you do? What WILL you do? Will you donate time? Expertise? Connections? Wisdom? Will you take a walk every morning or night with your neighbors and grab trash along the way? Will you offer your brilliance to help alleviate a community problem with a clever solution? Will you promote community events?

Will you be a part of your Village?

*Jonathan Sample is the owner of Fresh Pressed on Hollywood Boulevard and a recently elected member of the Los Feliz Village Business Improvement District.*

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[OPEN MIKE]  
**Hoover Walk: A Dream Realized**

By Mary Frances, Smith-Reynolds

Yesterday I went to the Hoover Walk. It was late afternoon and the shadows were long. There were a few others there too—simply enjoying art. Looking at the mural, and looking at people looking at the mural, was a realized dream.

The mural, created by Los Angeles artist Ricardo Mendoza, was installed in February and March. Since then, many have sought it out and discovered it by surprise. In its short life, it has already been well-photographed. The whole site—mural, slopes, sidewalks, steps, and plants—has been embraced by the neighborhood with a community sense of ownership and care. This bodes well for the future of this cul-de-sac location, that once seemed to embody the two words on a municipal sign formerly planted in its dirt: “Dead End.”

Ricardo titled this mural “Fluid City Rising.” This name provides a new metaphor for the Hoover Walk: hearts and spirits will be lifted daily by the images on these three walls, and the beautiful plants before them.

With much help from

other members of the community, I received the first of two grants for this project in 2003. So the Hoover Walk mural is the culmination of six years of planning, designing, maintaining, collaborating, and anticipating. It was certainly worth the wait.

A lot happens in six years. In my own life, I became a parent—and I lost a parent. We remodeled our home. In these same six years, Ricardo got married, became a parent, and built a home and studio.

And through all these life changes, this project remained a goal. It brought many challenges, but also many gifts, including that of many new friendships.

We chose this site for the mural when a resident called it to the attention of the office of Council District 4 (CD4) about seven years ago as a neglected place that was often the victim of graffiti, dumping, and other crimes. Working with other community members and Ricardo, we wrote and were gifted two grants from the Office of Community Beautification (then, the Neighborhood Matching Fund) to improve

this location with a mural and landscaping and various structural improvements.

Among the people we had in mind when we proposed this site for beautification were the dozens of students who walk the Hoover Walk steps every day, students from Thomas Starr King Middle School, John Marshall High School and Franklin Elementary. Many residents also climb the stairs in their daily walks and commutes. I believe now, more residents will make North Hoover Street part of their regular pedestrian circuit. This art will feed their souls daily.

“Fluid City Rising” was a long time in coming, but the timing of its arrival is right. As people throughout our city face the struggles of these times, there is comfort in the images on the mural. The two strong people, the towering skyline, the open wings, and the watchful eye portrayed on its panels invoke resilience, creativity, community pride, and peace.

*Mary Frances Smith-Reynolds is a resident of Franklin Hills.*

[LETTER]  
**We’d Like Our Signs**

Dear Editor:

I noted with a mix of amusement and dismay the picture of Councilman LaBonge on the front page of your April issue. He is gleefully posing next to a nice, brand-new sign designating Griffith Park as a historical and cultural monument. On January 30th at 3 a.m., a man was shot on Canyon Drive, by men who allegedly kidnapped him from another part of the city.

The alleged kidnappers planned on committing their misdeeds inside Griffith Park, but finding the gate closed, their crime spilled onto our streets.

About twenty of us who live near the crime scene wrote to Councilman LaBonge, ask-

ing the city to put up signage on Canyon Drive that would indicate that park gates close at dusk. Every night, cars speed up Canyon, only to find the park closed and turn around. We are the only entrance street to Griffith Park without this signage.

Now, over four months later, we still do not have our signs. Yet Councilman LaBonge was able to get the historical/cultural signage erected extremely quickly, just a couple weeks after the park was designated as such.

Maybe [we] residents should promise him a photo opportunity.

- Joan Levine, Los Angeles

**SUBMISSION GUIDELINES**

To submit a letter or editorial, send to acohen@lofelizledger.com or to 4459 Avocado St., LA, CA 90027.

Include your name, area in which you live and contact information.

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[RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY]

## Los Feliz Faith Communities Celebrate Gay Pride

By Roberta Morris, Ledger Columnist

**LOS FELIZ**—Gay Pride is being celebrated by faith communities locally as it is across the country as the 40th anniversary of Stonewall approaches.

“Stonewall for All,” is being offered by the American Catholic Church (ACC), Sunday, June 28th, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Forty years ago, patrons at the Stonewall Inn in New York City clashed with police in what became known as the Stonewall Riots. Many consider this the beginning of the gay rights movement in the United States.

“It’s an opportunity to celebrate and to find strength in the ongoing work for peace, justice and equality all people,” said Eldon Turner, the event’s organizer.

The Eucharist will be celebrated in the Celtic tradition at 3 p.m. by Bishop Robert Clement.

The liturgy will include original music and an opportunity for contemplation and celebration. Refreshments will follow as well as live music by the Vegan Vixens. The event also includes a retrospective exhibit of sacred and secular

art, artifacts, news items and film excerpts that relate to the gay religious movement—some never exhibited in public before and dating back to the year 1946.



1st New York City Gay parade, June 1970. Pictured is Robert Mary Clement, now the Archbishop of North America of the original American Catholic Church.

ACC is located in the Courtyard Galleries behind the Hollywood Lutheran Church in Los Feliz., 1733 N. New Hampshire Blvd.

Pride Weekend—a 3 day festival—is held in Los Angeles every year in June. The Pride Parade along Santa Monica Boulevard on Sunday, June 14th, starting at 11 a.m.

Several people from Mt. Hollywood Congregational are helping plan “Dyke Day” at Barnsdall Art Park on Saturday, June 13th. The day is billed as one “in the park for all self-identified dykes and allies, including gay families, transgender dykes and dykes of all ages.”

There will be bands and stage performances, arts and crafts for kids of all ages and tables for local organizations to set up information for the community.

For information about Dyke Day at Barnsdall visit: [www.myspace.com/dykeday](http://www.myspace.com/dykeday) or ACC’s “Stonewall for All” visit: [www.american-catholicchurch.info](http://www.american-catholicchurch.info)

[STAR GAZING]

## June 2009

By Anthony Cook  
Astronomer, Griffith Observatory



Summer begins on June 20th at 10:46 p.m., P.D.T.

This is the moment when the North Pole is tilted most in the direction of the sun by the earth’s axis. At the same moment, winter starts in the southern hemisphere.

June will provide the last good observing opportunities for Saturn in the evening sky this year as it approaches being lost in the sun’s glare in September. A telescope will

show that the rings appear very narrow. Saturn appears as a bright, yellow hued star in Leo the Lion and is 36 degrees high in the west when darkness falls at mid-month, and sets three hours later. The slender crescent moon poses near it on the 27th.

Planet Jupiter, in Capricornus the Sea Goat, is the brilliant yellow planet that moves from the southeast sky when it rises around midnight to the south at dawn. Telescopic observers in skies free from light pollution can see comet Kopff pass 2½ degrees north of the planet on the mornings of June 1st-3rd. Distant planet Neptune also can be seen as a tiny blue disk less than a degree north of Jupiter all month long.

The brightest planet, Venus, is eye-catching in the east as dawn starts. Venus is within a binocular-field of fainter, orange planet Mars all month, passing 2 degrees south of Mars on the 21st.

The innermost planet, Mercury, is best observed half an hour before sunrise (at 5:13 a.m.) starting on the 5th and for the rest of the month. It can be found between 5 and 9 degrees of the east-northeast horizon during this period. The crescent moon appears between Mercury and the Venus-Mars pairing on the 20th—a good “photo-op”.

Be on the lookout for the June Boötids meteors. The best chance of seeing them is during the night and early morning hours of June 26th-27th.

[OBITUARY]

## Aletha Louis White Olson

Aletha Louise White Olson, age 92, died at her home in Los Angeles on April 21st. Olson was a teacher in the Los Angeles Unified School District as well as being an enthusiastic gardener, community volunteer and world traveler. She was active at the Los Feliz Branch of the L.A. Public Library, in its reading programs both for grandparents and children and for English as a second language; at Mt. Hollywood Congregational Church and La Canada Presbyterian Church; in the Los Feliz Improvement Association and its History Committee; and in the UCLA Alumni Association.

A memorial service will be held on Sun. June 14th at 3 p.m., La Canada Presbyterian Church, 626 Foothill Blvd., La Canada. In lieu of flowers, donations in Aletha’s memory may be made to La Canada Presbyterian Church, Mt. Hollywood Congregational Church, the Los Feliz Improvement Association Historical Committee and the Los Feliz Branch of the Los Angeles Public Library (check made out to Skylight Books, marked “Library—Aletha Olson fund” and sent directly to Skylight Books, 1818 N. Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90027).

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**LAUSD Cuts from page 1**

ry, will actually receive about \$111,000 more for its budget next year, while Ivanhoe elementary will only see a fraction.

“Under the board’s plan every school that’s Title I is getting over \$900 per kid—at Ivanhoe, zero,” said David Tokofsky, a consultant with Associated Administrators Los Angeles and a former member

that amounts to \$327,000. Last year, the school community raised \$202,000 and saved the school’s academic coaching jobs.

“It’s been terrible. It shouldn’t have to be kindergarten aides versus a copy machine, or [a] librarian versus academic coaches,” said Pamela Cohen, chair of the school’s governing board.

Just a couple of miles

would also use the extra funds to hire more classroom teachers if the district demands class sizes increase, which appears inevitable.

The LAUSD budget issue—called a “crisis” by many—weighed heavily at a May meeting of the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council.

Fifty local school representatives and stakeholders showed up to discuss how the community can help.

“Schools really are the anchor of our community that affect the quality of our lives, business, beauty of our neighborhoods and home value. I don’t know when schools became parent’s problems but they are really neighborhood problems,” said Michela Bedard, co-chair of the SLNC Governmental Affairs Committee.

Like Los Feliz Elementary, Micheltorena’s infusion of funds will need to be spent next year just to tread water. The extra funds for the school, according to administrators, will be used to offset district cuts just to keep their program about the same as last year.

Despite the federal help, the LAUSD—with over 700,000 students—is facing drastic budget cuts aimed at closing a \$600 million deficit.

**Just a couple of miles west, Los Feliz Elementary, on the other hand, will receive a windfall for the 2009-2010 academic year, thanks to district and stimulus money.**

of the LAUSD Board of Education. “It’s the tale of two Silver Lakes.”

Ivanhoe Elementary, a school with consistently high test scores and involved parents, will receive \$34,000—\$18,000 from federal stimulus money. The amount, administrators say, won’t be enough to cover staff positions and programs which are slated to be cut in its current 2009-2010 proposed budget.

As a result, Ivanhoe—for the second consecutive year—needs to come up with its own funds to fill the gap. This year,

west, Los Feliz Elementary, on the other hand, will receive a windfall for the 2009-2010 academic year, thanks to district and stimulus money.

“Our budget almost doubled,” said principal Kathy Pilkinton, “. . . but I still don’t know if we came out ahead.”

Los Feliz Elementary, like other schools who receive so-called “categorical funds” that are earmarked for specific needs, will have to use the additional stimulus funds, Pilkinton said, to buyback staff positions no longer covered by the district. Pilkinton said she



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**Los Feliz**



**Silver Lake**



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**71 Glen Summer Road Pasadena \$869,000**  
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**2249 Duane Street Silver Lake \$835,000**  
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**In Escrow**



**2054 North New Hampshire Los Feliz \$799,000**  
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**In Escrow**



**7250 Franklin Avenue #309 Hollywood Hills \$494,000**  
Spacious 2 bed & 2 bath condo w/views of Hollywood landmarks. Dining area, wet bar, nook for home office. Enjoy a gracious lifestyle living in this luxurious full service building, valet parking, concierge, pool, spa, fitness center w/roof top patio w/wraparound views.

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**1945 Beachwood Drive Unit E Beachwood Canyon \$499,000**  
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