WILSHIRE CLOSURE
Looking Like Weekends Only
By Sheila Lane, Ledger Contributing Writer

HANCOCK PARK—A final decision on the length of time Wilshire Boulevard will be closed this spring for Metro Purple Line construction is expected within days.

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When I was a young reporter, the first thing I did when I got to work when I was an intern for the Los Angeles Times was to make “beat calls.” At the time, I thought doing so was miserable. Today, I only wish.

Back then, young reporters were given a list of police division phone numbers that reached a live, human person who was known as the PIO (Public Information Officer) or the Watch Commander. The conversation would go something like this: “Hey, it’s Allison with the L.A. Times. Got anything to report?”

The watch commander would then reply one of two ways: “Nah, not much going on,” or “Yeah, there was this...” But sometimes they did. I would ask, “What happened last night...”

Most of these interactions did not produce a fruitful story. But sometimes they did. I would call at least 20 or more different police stations first thing in the morning, and then again late in the afternoon. Plus, I became friendly and knowledgeable with each and every station.

Today, reporters have to call a centralized media line for the Los Angeles Police Dept., to ask about specific crime issues. The days of “beat calls” are over. I wouldn’t mind, as a publisher and reporter, if the centralized media line were helpful. But often the officer at the end of that call had no idea what crime or issue I was actually asking about. I have actually been asked, “Do you have an arrest number?”

Sadly, most LAPD media relations officers now ask you to send an email with your request and then promise someone will try to get back to you in a couple of days. The same process is true, these days, for the Los Angeles Fire Department.

That’s not how news works, even with monthly newspapers. Things happen, immediacy is important and in some cases, it’s critical to get important information out to the public.

Twitter could be a solution, I know. But it’s not. When you see a tweet that interests you as a reporter, you get the same lack of transparency when you call to follow up on it.

These practices by the LAPD are not serving the public well. Government and police agencies must work hand-in-hand with the news media, large and small, to provide information to the public, not forestall it or create unnecessary roadblocks or delays for transparency.

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The Wilshire Closure – Managing the Disruption

The Purple Line subway construction on Wilshire Blvd. from Highland Avenue to La Brea Blvd will require an extended closure of Wilshire Blvd. this coming year. Metro has provided residents and business owners with two options for this closure: 1) Seven full weeks; or 2) Sixteen weekends.

Our new councilman, David Ryu, is asking his district to tell him what they think so he can represent us to Metro. The choice of sixteen weekend closures is the only option that keeps our streets safe for residents and everyone who lives, works and goes to school in Hancock Park. The traffic management plan Metro has proposed, after little true study, will be to divert traffic to Olympic Blvd. and 3rd Street. That represents an increase in commuter traffic of over 40% on our streets; streets already packed during rush hour. Metro will also do no traffic mitigation for interior residential streets meaning that desperate drivers will be speeding down all of Hancock Park’s streets. Finally, Metro did not study the impact on the over 2,200 children who attend our neighborhood’s schools, many of whom are driven to school or take the bus.

On the bright side there is some good traffic news: The City has approved left-turn arrows in all four directions at the intersection of Melrose and Rossmore/Vine. The first two signals for Rossmore/Vine north and south are budgeted for this coming year. Thanks to our Councilman, David Ryu, and his staff for working on achieving this important milestone.


The Association’s Committees are always looking for help, so visit the website, see if there is a committee that you’d like to work with and contact us. The HPOZ Preservation Plan — http://www.preservation.lacity.org/hpoz/la/hancock-park; Regulates our HPOZ. Contact our City Planner, Rene Dragland (renadragland@lacity.org), and use the online form (http://preservation.lacity.org/hpoz/initial.screening.checklist/). If you plan on making changes to the exterior of your house, Report graffiti sightings by calling 311 or at the City’s Anti-Graffiti Request System: http://bit.ly/1CXxzl and by calling Hollywood Beautification, 323-463-5180.
Do You Own a Gun?

By Michael Darling, Ledger Contributing Writer

With the debate over gun control once again in the forefront of American politics, we want to know: Do you own a gun? Do you plan on buying any (or more if you already have any)? Why or why not?

“I don’t because I’ve never felt a need for one.”
– Darcell C., outside Hans Custom Optik on Larchmont Boulevard

“No, definitely not, because I live in Australia and they’re banned there. Even if I could, I wouldn’t want to. I can’t imagine why Americans would want them. It must go back to the Civil War or something and wanting to fight.”
– Robert P., outside Burger Lounge on Larchmont Boulevard

“No and nobody needs a gun. The Second Amendment says nothing about personal ownership and assault rifles should be banned. Hunting’s fine though.”
– Peter O., outside Parking Lot 694 on Larchmont Boulevard

“No, I don’t own a gun because I don’t need one, plain and simple.”
– Emily B., outside Haas and Company on Larchmont Boulevard

“No, I don’t. Why not? That’s a good question. I guess I just haven’t felt the need for one.”
– John B., outside Larchmont Barber Shop on Larchmont Boulevard

“I don’t own a gun and don’t even know how to shoot one. I don’t think they’re needed in this day and age.”
– Atlas F., outside Diptyque on Larchmont Boulevard

“I absolutely do not because I don’t believe in violence as an answer.”
– Lindsay W., outside Goorin Bros. Hat Shop on Larchmont Blvd

[Editor’s Note: While the Ledger did meet gun owners on the street, they declined to have their names and photos published.]

Community Meetings in February

Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council
Governing Board
February 10th at 7 p.m.
743 South Lucerne

Land Use Committee
February 23rd at 6:30 p.m.
4350 Wilshire Boulevard

Transportation Committee
February 1st at 7 p.m.
4350 Wilshire Blvd.

Mid City West Community Council
Board of Directors
February 9th at 6:30 p.m.
543 North Fairfax Avenue

Executive Council
February 2nd and 23rd at 6:30 p.m.
543 North Fairfax Avenue, Room #106

Planning and Land Use Committee
February 16th at 6:30 p.m.
543 North Fairfax Avenue, Room #104

Olympic Park Neighborhood Council
Governing Board
February 1st at 7 p.m.
1102 Crenshaw Boulevard

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hybrids.

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Re:code LA—Untangling Zoning Laws for a 21st Century Los Angeles
By Sheila Lane, Ledger Contributing Writer

Depending on the neighborhood where a project is located, a resident or developer in Los Angeles may have to drill through several confusing layers of zoning rules contained in ordinances, overlay districts, specific plans and other conditions to learn what he or she can legally build.

The proposed solution to this problem is re:code LA. Targeted to be adopted in 2017, re:code LA will be a comprehensive revision of Los Angeles' outdated zoning code which was first established in 1946.

City planners have already hammered out zoning rules for Downtown and were planning to methodically work their way through the rest of Los Angeles.

But with a firestorm of activity and sometimes confusion surrounding codes for the construction or remodeling of single-family homes, they have made the creation of regulations for this type of zoning a priority.

In 2008, the Baseline Mansionization Ordinance (BMO) was passed to stop "mansionization"—the razing or major remodeling of a smaller house to create a larger structure that is out of scale with the surrounding neighborhood. However, loopholes emerged in the form of bonuses and exemptions for developers, which ironically encouraged larger overall structures.

In May of 2014, Los Angeles City Councilmember Paul Koretz made a motion to pass revisions for the BMO. Over 20 months later, a version of those revisions—and the public comments they raised—are currently being reviewed by the City Planning Dept.

As the months passed, some local residents became alarmed that the slow progress of the revisions could potentially result in teardowns or more so-called "McMansions," a name given by some to homes that are outsized for their lots.

So, two Interim Control Ordinances (ICOs) were sought and approved by the Los Angeles City Council for such areas as Oxford Square, La Brea/Hancock and the Los Feliz Oaks.

In those cases, interim measures included a moratorium on new development and teardowns and the enforcement of neighborhood specific regulations like requiring that a proposed new structure's overall square footage does not exceed 120% of what originally was there.

In other cases, some interim stopgaps are in the pipeline but have not been written and approved by the city, as is the case with the neighborhoods of Brookside and Sycamore Square, which are both near Hancock Park.

Charlie D’Atri, president of the Larchmont Village Neighborhood Assoc. said he...
LAUSD Officials Provide Burroughs Modernization Plans
By Sheila Lane, Ledger Contributing Writer

HANCOCK PARK—After almost 100 years, the campus of John Burroughs Middle School is poised to undergo a massive remodel, which will modernize the facility and address traffic issues that have plagued the school and surrounding neighborhood.

Identified as a campus most in need of rehabilitation, Burroughs was one of the first 11 schools selected by the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) last March to be approved for a modernization project.

Funding is provided by taxpayers through Measure Q—a 2008 bond measure that authorized the school district to issue $7 billion in bonds to repair and upgrade aging classrooms.

The value of anticipated improvements at John Burroughs is estimated to be more than $100 million.

Scott Singletary, a facilities development manager for LAUSD, told a gathering of about 30 people at the school on January 20th that the campus would be undergoing major changes.

“There will be a huge, huge amount of work done,” said Singletary.

The project is still in its preliminary stages, but the analysis of what needs to be done has been completed.

Last summer, a cavalcade of professionals including structural engineers, geotechnical experts, architects, surveyors and an architectural historian studied the campus.

Their evaluations were blended with input from the school staff and surrounding community to determine the school’s needs.

Key problems identified included buildings that need seismic upgrades, a lack of permanent classrooms, poor infrastructure, accessibility issues, heavy traffic congestion and campus security.

Although the details have not been determined, there is a general plan to address these issues.

Three of the four historic buildings built in the 1920s—including the ones facing McCadden Place and 6th Street—will retain their historic integrity, but will be upgraded with modern classrooms and infrastructure.

Two buildings, including a fourth historic building, “the shop,” and a cafeteria/classroom complex will be demolished. In addition, portable classrooms will be removed.

What will replace the removed structures, or even where they will be located, has yet to be determined.

All improvements are based on the assumption that the school’s current enrollment of 1,850 will be maintained in the future.

Singletary stressed that the LAUSD has heard the complaints of parents and neighbors alike about the congested traffic surrounding the campus, during morning drop off and afternoon pick up, and that they will be addressed.

Traffic mitigation plans will be put into place both during construction and thereafter.

“One of the most promising things about this [project], besides making the school safe,” said Joanne Medeiros, a board member of the Hancock Park Homeowners Assoc., “is that they have to figure out alternative drop-off [and pick-up routes]. This is the opportunity to reconfigure the space.”

The modernization of the campus should begin in about two years with an expected completion date of 2022.

Plans for the modernization of John Burroughs Middle School will affect both students and those in the surrounding neighborhood.

According to statistics from the LAPD’s Olympic division, there was a 50% increase in robberies from mid-December though January 16, with a total of 36 incidences.

The Ledger’s coverage area is served by two different divisions of the Los Angeles Police Dept. According to statistics from mid-December through January 16, violent crime for the Wilshire Division is up 7% compared to the same time last year. Amongst categories for violent crime, robbery was the most reported for the latest reporting period with seven.

Aggravated assaults followed with 13. Wilshire also reported one rape.

Also Wilshire reports recent property crimes were down compared to last year. 25%. Of those property crimes, there were 65 burglaries from cars up (up 8% compared to last year). All other property crimes were down from last year, specifically: 45 reports of personal theft, 28 burglaries from properties and 15 instances of thefts from cars.

Finally, Wilshire reported arrests for the time period were up 6.3% overall for both violent and property crimes.

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Boozy Brushstrokes

Getting Tipsy at Paint and Sip Studio

By Erin Hickey, Ledger Contributing Writer

Paint and Sip patrons drink, laugh and sing while learning to recreate a still life of a bird.

LA BREA AVENUE—Drunk with laughter and 90s music fill the air at La Brea’s Paint and Sip Studio LA.

Founded in 2013, Paint and Sip hosts BYOB art lessons as an alternative to the often exhausting clubs and bars that make up Los Angeles nightlife.

Five nights a week, the studio hosts groups of 15 to 24 adults—all over 21, of course—while they sip wine and learn to paint scenes ranging from sunsets to starry nights.

I've painted before, and I've definitely gotten drunk before, but it had never occurred to me to do both at the same time, so I decided to grab a friend and try my luck at the studio’s two-for-one Thursday class.

After driving around in circles, cursing the confirmation email’s false promise of “plenty of street parking”—just bring cash for the $6 lot next door—we followed the peals of wine-soaked laughter upstairs, where owner Brandon Pizzola enthusiastically greeted us, painter’s smocks and corkscrews in hand.

Pizzola led us through the evening’s scene, a bluebird perched on a branch, teaching us to mix—but not over mix—our colors to achieve a mottled background, and reminding us to let our paint dry before beginning a new layer.

He kept the mood light, blasting Whitney Houston, Destiny’s Child and other 80s and 90s classics, while he taught—the whole room stopped flinging paint to sing along to A-ha’s “Take on Me.”

“I used to teach kids,” Pizzola chided after his unprompted attempt to get a room full of rabunctious drunks to pipe down and pay attention.

Three hours and a few dozen bottles of wine later, the room was filled with bluebirds on branches, each technically the same, yet wholly unique.

Paint and Sip offers several weekly classes, with new paintings added each month.

This month, you can add a little romance to the mix at a special Valentine’s Day event, where couples can paint two separate canvases that make one whole painting when combined.

If that sounds like your cup of tea (or glass of wine, as the case may be), you’d better sign up quick. Although there is still space left, according to Pizzola, there were 90 people on the wait list last Valentine’s Day.

Paint and Sip classes are $35 per person, with a $10 discount on “Wine Down Wednesdays” and two-for-one Thursdays. The Valentine’s Day event is on February 13th at 7:30 p.m. for $75 per couple, or February 14th at noon for $60 per couple.

The studio can also be reserved for private events.

Paint and Sip is located on the second floor of 351 South La Brea Ave. Book online at paintandsipstudiola.com.

Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council Needs all Stakeholders!

Are you interested in serving the GWNC through the city’s neighborhood council system? Register to run as a CANDIDATE

Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council

VOTING from page 1

A majority of neighborhood councils, however, like the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council (GWNC), have decided on a wait and see attitude to digital voting.

“We were just opposed to it,” said GWNC President Owen Smith. “We are not convinced this is the way to go.”

According to Smith, he and the GWNC board have concerns about how online voters will be verified and confirmed they actually have a stake in the community, either by living there or owning a business or being part of a community organization.

“If online voting is such a good way to go,” Owen said, “then why aren’t we doing it for the [upcoming] presidential election?”

Currently, if you vote in person at a neighborhood council election, you must produce confirmation of your right to do so, such as show a utility bill with your name and address.

Overseeing the online voting process is EmpowerLA, the city agency that oversees Los Angeles’ neighborhood councils.

When registering online, EmpowerLA will require voters to upload their photo identification and a document, like a driver’s license, showing their status in the neighborhood.

Even though the online registration and in person verification of their right to vote is similar, GWNC’s Smith said the digital registration could possibly be abused.

“There are more opportunities for [voter] problems,” and fraud online, Smith said.

Other neighborhood councils have expressed similar concerns, such as the Atwater Village and Los Feliz neighborhood councils.

According to Mark Maurici, vice president, administration of the Los Feliz Neighborhood Council (LFNC), Los Feliz also opted out of online voting for similar reasons, stating that the process is unproven and untested.

“[EmpowerLA] didn’t do any actually testing to work out the bugs,” said Los Feliz Neighborhood Council vice-president Mark Maurici.

“The LFNC will look at the results,” Maurici said and then make a decision about online voting going forward.

The local GWNC election is May 1st.

Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council

Needs all Stakeholders!

Are you interested in serving the GWNC through the city’s neighborhood council system? Register to run as a CANDIDATE

Registration filing begins Jan 17 and ends Mar 2, 2016 at www.empowerla.org/nccr/

Or register in person February 10th 2016 at the GWNC meeting 7:00 p.m. at The Bell of Los Angeles

Run as a candidate or volunteer as a poll worker

Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council

VOTING from page 1

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MARLINK from page 1

his team had to apply. The catch was that the deadline for submitting proposals was December 31st. He had just 30 days.

While scrambling to coordinate a proposal when most African and U.S. organizations were closing for the holidays, Marlink was approached by the Los Angeles-based Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation who was also hoping to vie for the same federal funding and needed someone with Marlink’s expertise and connections with African governments to make it happen.

Marlink agreed to help the organization write their proposal, while working on his own for Harvard. Ultimately, both were funded and it changed Marlink’s life.

“You’re begging for money to do what you’re doing for 15 years,” he said, “and then suddenly money is not the problem.”

The new funding allowed Marlink to expand the Harvard program in Botswana and to take a leadership role in implementing the Glaser Foundation program, which serviced several African nations.

He relocated from Boston to Los Angeles and settled in Windsor Square with his wife, television producer Kim Swann, and their toddler daughter.

Through his work, Marlink met Florence, a South African woman who was infected with HIV and lost both her husband and daughter to HIV before treatment was available.

With treatment, however, Florence was able to begin a new family and now has two healthy sons without HIV. She has since become a counselor and spokesperson for AIDS treatment.

Marlink said her story is indicative of many others. By keeping the parents healthy on treatment, the next generation is able to live normal productive lives.

“It’s not only gratifying,” said Marlink. “It becomes a great investment. Invest a few dollars and save a future generation.”

As a reward for meeting or exceeding specified targets, both original grants were renewed in 2008, with significant more funding, for another four years.

The work done during those eight years revealed major findings, including that patients must start treatment immediately, not wait for signs of a compromised immune system.

“We weren’t sure about this at first [but we showed] if you start treatment immediately, no matter what the status of your immune system at the time was moved in order to give Ryu more time to evaluate the options.

Ryu stopped a decision from being made in November. At the time, he said he wanted the community to have more input on the issue and would make his decision only after Metro had done an exhaustive traffic study on the full seven weeks option. The delivery of that report—which according to Sotero was produced by the project’s contractor at no cost to Metro—was accelerated by 10 days in January. Initially, Metro was to present its findings at the Jan. 21st community meeting, but instead did so Jan. 11th, to encourage community leaders to have a decision in mind before the later meeting. According to Metro representatives, Kasey Shuda, the seven-week plan requires more traffic mitigations than the weekends-only plan and would need to be approved by the Los Angeles Dept. of Transportation.

A number of city agencies, including the Bureau of Street Services and the Board of Public Works as well as Ryu, must come to agreement on the closure plan. In a report sent to Ryu’s office by Metro officials, a non-comprehensive survey done in the early fall suggested those in residential buildings along Wilshire Boulevard were leaning toward the seven weeks full closure option with businesses preferring the 16 weekends option.

No matter what choice is made, both plans require an additional six weekends of closures from Detroit Street to La Brea Avenue.

Visit larchmontledger.com for updates on this story.

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Organic Bedding
Organic Baby Care

Healing Hands
Wellness Center
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Goodnight NATURALS

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Page 7

COMMUNITY NEWS
The former staffer’s email goes on to indicate why LaBonge, who was a popular and gregarious city councilmember for 14 years, would allegedly ask for documents to be destroyed.

There was, “lots of wrong doing and [LaBonge] wanted to make sure that was covered [up] plus make sure that Ryu would have to start from scratch. Just a simpleton with a giant ego.”

David Ryu beat LaBonge’s former Chief of Staff, Carolyn Ramsay in a run-off election last May for a Los Angeles City Council seat for District 4, which spans from Silver Lake to Sherman Oaks and includes Hancock Park, Larchmont Village and Windsor Square.

Ryu took office July 1st. Around that same time, it became clear that, in one city hall insider’s words, “Tom didn’t even leave a paperclip for David behind.”

In addition to allegations LaBonge ordered documents destroyed, the former staffer has additionally shed light on a what many close to the situation have been saying for months: that LaBonge’s office was in chaos at the end of his term and that some disenfranchised CD4 staff had sought help from other city agencies.

In another email from the former staffer forwarded to the Ledger, the staffer indicated that “the whole operation in CD4 was reported multiple times by multiple people to the Los Angeles City Ethics Commission, human resources and the City’s Clerk’s office and the City’s General Services department, which is responsible for among other things, providing support to elected officials in reference to materials management and warehousing and custodial, recycling and moving services.

Regarding the city ethics commission, the Lever requested any and all filed grievances or ethical concerns from 2012 to date by any person, named or anonymous, in reference to LaBonge. But in a letter received by a policy analyst working for the commission, Lisa M. Ishimaru denied the Lever’s request citing confidentiality against the public’s right to know, the right of privacy under the California Constitution and “legal privileges in the interest of justice.”

The city’s General Services Dept., however, did not respond to the Lever’s request, which it is mandated to do within ten days by California law.

A request for comment January 21st from the department’s General Manager, Tony M. Royster, was not returned. Los Feliz residents and now-retired city attorneys for multiple Southern California municipalities, Michael Miller and his wife Stephanie Scher, also filed similar public records requests with the two agencies in December.

MARLINK from page 7

you find out you are HIV+, you will benefit yourself in the long run if you start drugs right away,” Marlink said. Under Marlink’s leadership, the two programs combined helped the Botswana government place over 150,000 citizens on AIDS treatment and helped do the same for another half million in five other African countries.

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In another email from the former staffer forwarded to the Ledger, the staffer indicated that “the whole operation in CD4 was reported multiple times by multiple people to the Los Angeles City Ethics Commission, human resources and the City’s Clerk’s office and the City’s General Services department, which is responsible for among other things, providing support to elected officials in reference to materials management and warehousing and custodial, recycling and moving services.

Regarding the city ethics commission, the Lever requested any and all filed grievances or ethical concerns from 2012 to date by any person, named or anonymous, in reference to LaBonge. But in a letter received by a policy analyst working for the commission, Lisa M. Ishimaru denied the Lever’s request citing confidentiality against the public’s right to know, the right of privacy under the California Constitution and “legal privileges in the interest of justice.”

The city’s General Services Dept., however, did not respond to the Lever’s request, which it is mandated to do within ten days by California law.

A request for comment January 21st from the department’s General Manager, Tony M. Royster, was not returned. Los Feliz residents and now-retired city attorneys for multiple Southern California municipalities, Michael Miller and his wife Stephanie Scher, also filed similar public records requests with the two agencies in December.

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[SENIOR MOMENTS]

Help in Our Home
By Stephanie Vendell, Ledger Columnist

As I am entering my eighties, I keep thinking of the words, “Old age isn’t for sissies.” I realize that aging is a reality, and with time, I may not have the physical or mental energy to do everything by myself. This may mean I have to consider moving into a facility that can tend to my needs and match my interests, or I could stay in my home with the help of others.

Generally, it is family or friends who respond to this kind of need. As reported by the Family Caregiver Alliance, about 44 million Americans provide 37 billion hours of unpaid, “informal” care each year for adult family members and friends with chronic illnesses or conditions that prevent them from handling their daily activities on their own. Informal care can be stressful. Well-intentioned caretakers can feel pulled by other responsibilities—such as work and childcare—and be distracted from their caretaking duties. The caregiver may also feel exhausted, isolated or separated from their social life if the hours are long.

Formal care is available, a professional home health care provider with special training to help with medical needs might be needed for a person who is recovering from a hospital stay or who otherwise might be considered an appropriate candidate for a skilled nursing facility. You can use an agency to hire a caregiver, or hire a private caregiver someone has referred, or hire from an on-line database such as care.com. If you decide to go through an agency, you should know some terms. A “home care” agency trains its workers for non-medical needs and is responsible for the quality of the care, although they are not licensed, while a “home health” agency serves those with medical needs. These caregivers must have specific training and the agency must be licensed.

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THE GOOD LIFE

Explore Fun Red Wines
By Tara de Lis, Ledger Columnist

One of the fun things about wine is that it has more to do with grape varietals you’ve tried, or blends of different ones, than with the rest of the world. The 2014 Folk Vineyard Valdiguié hails from Redwood Valley. The Valdiguié grape traces its roots to southwestern France, and was once quite popular, but now plays only a supporting role in the region.

It has a bit of a cult following in California. This one is ruby red in color, while the tart taste is almost like a dried, candied apple. It works as a food-friendly wine, or just an evening sipper.

An Italian grape varietal, Grignolino del Monferrato Casalese is deep and earthy. In the expression of the 2014 Tenuta Migliaravacca, the color consists of aged garnet. The nose can be described as freshly chopped wood meets floral violet. Rustic tannins make it a solid choice for rustic food pairings.

Part of an ongoing series, The Less Vines Contes R14 is a red French blend that brings together lesser-known varieties. It is a mix of Grenache, Gamay and Pinot Noir, in that order. Aromatically, the hallmark is chocolate, dark plum and mint. It’s deceptive. It’s dark in color, as the taste starts out big but mellows out. No need to decant.

[OXFORD SQUARE]

The Accidental Do-Gooder
By Murray Cohen, Ledger Columnist

The other day, when I found a $20 bill in the ATM machine at my bank, I reflected upon one of my very first lessons in the goodness of community. It’s the summer of 1970. I’m sixteen. I’m a good kid, but an irresponsible one.

One day, I’m leaving Newport Beach in my ’62 Plymouth Valiant. I back up to pull out of a super tight parallel parking space when—thunk—I hit an old pick-up truck behind me. I get out, look at the truck, don’t see any damage, get back in my car and drive away.

I hear someone honking and see an old guy driving beside me, gesturing for me to roll down my window, yelling at me.

“You’re going to tag that car aren’t you?” He asked over and over again.

I’m like, “Yeah, whatever,” and I keep going.

But the guy follows me down PCH.

“You’re going to tag that car, aren’t you?” he yelled again.

I don’t want this guy following me all the way home to Anaheim so I finally turn around and go back to the scene of the crime.

The old guy pulls up next to me, offers writing utensils and I put a note on the truck with my contact info.

“Did you hit a pick-up truck?”

“Well, yeah, but it wasn’t very hard and I left a note and…”

My father stops me and tells me that the call was from the owner of that truck who wanted to thank my father for raising such a fine son.

What? The owner said the truck was an old beater, had a million dents and there’s nothing I could have done to make it any worse. “But these days, young people aren’t normally so respectful as your son,” the truck owner said. “You should be very proud.”

Like a bandit on horseback trying to waylay the stagecoach, he’s driving along side me, neck and neck, at 50 miles an hour.

gave the $20 to the branch manager who dutifully recorded it and thanked me. From that one summer day forward, I have aspired to treat others with respect because, well, just feels so good—whether your good deed is intentional or accidental, like mine.

[THE GOOD LIFE]

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COMMUNITY NEWS

February 2016

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Larchmont Ledger
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Affordable Homes South of Wilshire Booming with Demand

By Allison B. Cohen

The local real estate market, according to sales data from December 2015, shows inconsistency in sales and prices amongst the Ledger’s four coverage zip codes, according to data released by Core Logic, a real estate analytics firm out of La Jolla, CA.

Zip code 90019 is booming, with a recorded 31 homes sold in December—more than double that of any other local area—at a median price of $836,000, up nearly 14% compared to 2014. High demand in this area, and at this relatively lower price point, continues to push prices up.

On one hand, zip code 90019 is booming, with a recorded 31 homes sold—more than double that of any other area—in December, at a median price of $836,000, up nearly 14% compared to 2014. High demand in this area, and at this relatively lower price point, continues to push prices up.

While the 90004 zip code saw far fewer homes sell last December, the 12 that did close escrow sold for a median price of $1,140,000, up 61% compared to the same time last year.

Meanwhile, sales in the 90020 zip code continue to be few. Only two homes sold in that area in December. Most importantly, the two that did sell did so at a median sales price of $2,875,000—down 64% compared to a year ago.

Local condo activity in December was hit-and-miss. The 90020 zip code saw its median sale price for a condo increase nearly 45% compared to last year, while the median price in the 90004 area declined 12%. No data were available for condo sales for zip code 90019. The median price increase in the 90036 zip code for a condo was a negligible 0.2%.

For Los Angeles County, 5,032 single-family homes sold in December at a median price of $516,000 a price increase of nearly 9% over last year. The median price for a condo additionally increase over 2014 by 9%, with 1,788 condos sold in December at a median price of $436,000.
Winter is that time of year in Southern California when we treat a cool morning as an excuse to put on down jackets and face the brutal weather that’s killing off our bougainvillea, shuttering down our outdoor grilling, and turning our Kumquats sour.

We crank up our indoor heat to 75 degrees and pretend like it’s summer all year long. At least, that’s what most people do.

This year, I decided to hold off using our furnace for as long as possible. My plan was simple—as soon as the weather dropped below 50 degrees outside, I would spring into action and turn on our heat.

But when I started to notice my wife and daughter wearing winter parkas and asking whether to start a fire in the fireplace, I realized these were not subtle hints.

And once again, I'm wearing winter parkas and making, Bingo Playing their 4th Annual Valentine-Day.

When it rains, it pours. In drought-weary California, we have become so dehydrated as a state that for months now we have been eagerly anticipating the arrival of El Niño—the great storm system that will hopefully bless us with enough rainfall to replenish our reservoirs, watersheds and underground aquifers.

Now that the rains have begun, we mustn’t get complacent and think our water worries are over.

If we let that precious water run off down our storm drains and rivers, not only do we waste a precious resource, but we allow it to head towards the sea, carrying with it animal waste, trash, metals, automotive oils and other contaminants that pollute the ocean at the end of its journey.

Environmental groups have been working with local cities and government agencies to create storm water capture plans such as the one that the Los Angeles Dep't of Water Power (LADWP) drafted in 2015.

The plan includes a variety of projects including enhanced large-scale spreading grounds where water percolates into groundwater basins for later pumping.

Another project calls for smaller scale green streets that have less concrete, while still another proposes rain gardens—gardens that are planted near runoff sources to capture the rainwater and stop it from entering the sewer system.

In collaboration with Tree People, the LADWP is also offering customers rebates for rainwater barrels.

In addition, the City of Los Angeles has set up an informative website to help individuals and businesses capture water and prevent the contamination of run-off.

Whether we build a rain garden, set up barrels below our gutters or place a few buckets on our balconies, we can all do our bit to capture some of this precious water and save it for a not-so-tairy day.

For more information, visit treepeople.org/roofterrain-barrels and lsmwater.org
Martin Luther King Jr. is an icon in recent American history, so when I learned that The Mountaintop, recipient of London's 2010 Olivier Award, was making its Los Angeles premiere at the Matrix Theatre on Melrose Avenue, I arranged an interview with director Roger Guenveur Smith to find out more. The play is a gripping, and at times humorous, imagining of events before the assassination of Dr. King in Memphis in 1968.

Smith is an Obie Award winner and the star of Rod-Lorde's The Mountaintop, which was making its Los Angeles debut. Smith is an Obie Award winner and the star of Rod-Lorde's The Mountaintop, which was making its Los Angeles debut.

Although today we view him as an icon, he was also a man. The play shows his humanity and vulnerability in the face of the many challenges he was facing.

As of January 1, 2016, Tennessee is the first state to have an animal abuse registry. While some cities have their own registries—the first of these lists was created in Suffolk County, New York in October 2010—this is the first statewide registry.

Senator Jeff Yarbrough is one of the bill's sponsors. "We proposed this law not just to take a stand against animal cruelty," said Yarbrough to the Huffington Post, "but to take concrete action to prevent abuse and deter those who repeatedly engage in the torture and killing of animals."

The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation will collect the list. Perpetrators who have committed a crime against animals after January 1st will be listed and their information will stay on the site for two years.

Currently, no government-sponsored national registry of animal abusers exists. Opponents of these lists believe that they exist only to publically shame and could possibly prompt people to take personal retaliation against perpetrators. However, the FBI has recently announced that it will begin collecting data on animal cruelty through its National Incident-Based Reporting System, labeling these crimes as a Group A felony—equal to assault, homicide and arson.

The FBI defines animal cruelty as "intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly taking an action that mistreats or kills any animal without just cause". The public can view the data that is currently being collected in 2017.

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Animal Abuse Registries on the Rise
By Jennifer Caloyeras, Ledger Columnist

The FBI defines animal cruelty as "intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly taking an action that mistreats or kills any animal without just cause". The public can view the data that is currently being collected in 2017.

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**[RESTAURANT REVIEW]**

**Vernetti Good But Needs Tweaking**

By Pat Saperstein, Ledger Restaurant Critic

It’s not clear why destination restaurants don’t seem to favor Larchmont Village. Whatever the reason, most of the restaurants in the immediate area are neighborhood spots where locals like to settle in for several years at a time. That was certainly the case with Girasole, which used to occupy the storefront next to Larchmont Village Wine that is now Vernetti.

Longtime area resident Steve Vernetti took over Girasole when the owners were ready to sell, learning the restaurant game and thinking about how to start fresh with a modern look while retaining the loyal clientele. The space got a totally new contemporary look with stylish light fixtures and a separate wood-topped bar area.

Homemade pasta is a specialty, and the supple noodles that are made daily in-house shine in dishes like linguine with scallops and cherry tomatoes ($24). Gnocchi with spinach is also tender, made with ricotta for just enough chew.

Pasta lovers will also appreciate the wide pappardelle noodles with wild mushrooms or hearty rigatoni with short-rib ragu. Mains include osso bucco, pork chop, roast chicken and roasted branzino.

Vernetti has the decor and the pasta nailed, but uneven service and inconsistent dishes could use some tweaking. Prices are a touch higher than some nearby Italian favorites, verging on Mozza territory, so ingredients and flavors should be expected to be a cut above the norm.

Cannellini beans with sage and pancetta, for example, showed no sign of sage, pancetta or even salt in the mushy bowl. Egg and pancetta salad should pair rich proteins with a tart dressing for maximum punch, but the result is bland. Caesar salad is perfectly fine, but a larger bowl of crispy bite-sized romaine would be more satisfying to eat than several whole leaves on a small plate.

Cioppino ($26) is a multi-ingredient dish and the Italian-style fish stew should have equally complex layers of flavor, but the toasted bread garnish turns out to be the highlight. The fresh bread is terrific dipped into the tomato-ey broth, but rubbery shrimp and mushy octopus show that the kitchen isn’t quite experienced enough with seafood.

Vernetti made the smart decision to open for lunch and brunch, when the sunny space shines with folks digging into eggs Benedict with cured salmon ($18), caramelized French toast and breakfast hash. The semolina waffles on the brunch menu are looking super respectable behind the bar, not like at a club, and I fell in love with it. I got a job at Cole’s downtown and they brought two guys out from New York to train the bartenders for the cocktail program and those guys made me want to drop everything and do bartending as a career.

**What is the funniest, weirdest or most interesting thing you’ve seen in your bartending career?**

I helped open Harvard & Stone and one time we had a group of people come in and they were trouble. They wanted drinks after hours and this guy was being very obnoxious and pretentious. He told the bartenders, “Please give me a drink, I have money. If money’s a problem, don’t worry.” We’re saying, “Sir, it’s past time. We follow the laws. We cannot serve any more drinks.” Then he just yells as us, “I have a $10,000 watch!”

As we’re kicking him out, he keeps shouting, “I have a $10,000 watch!”

What is one of your favorite drinks, what do you like about it, and what is the recipe? I really enjoy the Sazerac. It’s known as the first American cocktail. It’s a French bar, and it works well for us because there’s an interesting story behind it. It’s based on a French drink made with Cognac. There was an epidemic in France around the early 1900s and what happened was they couldn’t make any more wine, they couldn’t make any more Cognac, so they tried to find the closest thing to Cognac, so they used rye whiskey. So, it’s a rye whiskey cocktail now, but we like to suggest to people, “Would you like it with Cognac?” That’s the original.

Sazerac
1 sugar cube or teaspoon superfine sugar
3 dashes Peychaud’s Bitters
1 dash Angostura Bitters
2 oz Cognac

Stir in a mixing glass with ice. Pour and swirl one ounce of New Orleans style absinthe into a chilled rocks glass to coat the glass, then pour out the absinthe. Strain the mixed liquids into the coated glass. Squeeze a lemon peel over the glass and then discard the peel.

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February 2016

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**[BETTER KNOW A BARTENDER]**

**Pour Vous’ & the “First American Cocktail”**

By Michael Darling, Ledger Contributing Writer

The Larchmont area is home to some of Los Angeles’ best bars and restaurants, but how well do you know the bartenders who help keep the party going?

The Larchmont Ledger sits down with François Vera, general manager and head of the cocktail program at Pour Vous, to discuss his career and favorite drink.

**Age:** 40

**Hometown:** Curitiba, Brazil

**How long have you been bartending?** About 11 years.

**How’d you get into bartending?** At first I was working as a barista at Starbucks. I had a friend who worked with me who was bartending at night and she thought I was good at measuring everything and being good about the process of making coffee. She was like “You should bartend, it’s the same thing, except with boozes.” Then I started doing courses and temporary work like catering.

I never thought it would be a career, I went back to school at graphic design, but then I went to a bar in downtown Los Angeles called Seven Grand and the bartenders were looking super respectable behind the bar, not like at a club, and I fell in love with it.

I got a job at Cole’s downtown and they brought two guys out from New York to train the bartenders for the cocktail program and those guys made me want to drop everything and do bartending as a career.

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**ART**

**Diane Arbus In Manhattan**
Hilton Als, theater critic for *The New Yorker*, discusses the works of surrealist photographer Diane Arbus and her relationship with the borough of Manhattan. Free. Tickets required. 

LACMA, Mon. February 1st, 7:30 p.m. 5905 Wilshire Blvd. Information: (323) 857-6010, lacma.org

**The Peanut Gallery: A Charlie Brown Themed Art Show**
Over 100 artists come together to create their own takes on Charles Schulz’s beloved Peanuts gang. You’ll see Snoopy, Charlie Brown, Lucy, Linus and all the rest affectionately reinterpreted in ways you could never imagine. Free.

NerdMelt Showroom at Meltdown Comics, Thu. February 5th, 7 p.m. 7522 Sunset Blvd. Information: nerdmeltla.com

**BOOKS**

**Darryl Pinckney**
Pinckney will read, discuss and sign his new novel Black Deutschland. The novel tells the story of Joe, a young gay black man who at the height of the Cold War and the AIDS epidemic leaves his hometown of Chicago for Berlin. Free.

Chevalier’s Books, Thu. February 3rd, 7 p.m. 126 N. Chevalier’s Books, Thu. February 16th, 6 p.m. 149 N. Larchmont Blvd. Information: chevalierbooks.com

**William Shatner**
The original Captain Kirk has written a undoubtedly touching memoir about his friendship with the late Leonard Nimoy. Shatner will discuss and sign the book, Leonard: My Fifty-Year Friendship with a Remarkable Man. Free.

Barnes and Noble at the Grove, Thu. February 2nd, 7 p.m. 149 N. Saint Andrews Pl. Information: (323) 957-4550, lapl.com

**FILM**

**Cracked Actor: Bowie On Film**
Cinefamily celebrates the late music artist, discussing his life and career. New documentary Cracked Actor: Bowie On Film premieres during the official festival will feature screenings of *The Hunger*, *The Man Who Fell To Earth*, *The Mountaintop* and *Labyrinth*. Free.

Cinefamily at the Silent Movie Theater, Fri. January 29th to Tues. February 2nd. 611 N Fairfax Ave. Information: cinefamily.org

**HISTORY**

**Lunch With Susan Anderson**
Historian Susan Anderson specializes in the history of African Americans in California. At this lecture, she’ll discuss African Americans life in early 20th century Los Angeles. Tickets start at $59. The Ebell of Los Angeles, Fri. February 22nd, 11:30 a.m. 743 S. Lucerne Blvd. Information: ebellevtickets.com

**COMEDY**

**Big Terrific**
In 2008, comedians Gabe Liedman, Jenny Slate, and Max Silvestri teamed up to create a new weekly comedy show called Big Terrific. Since then, Big Terrific has become a Brooklyn institution showcasing rising comedy talent. Now the comedy trio’s bringing the Big Terrific experience to the West Coast. Tickets are $30. Largo at the Coronet, Tue. February 16th, 8:30 p.m. 368 N. La Cienega Blvd. Information: largo-la.com

**COMMUNITY**

**Preschool Storytime**
Join storyteller Sybil for stories, songs and other fun for children ages 3 to 5. Don’t forget to check out some books to read to your little ones. Free.

Wilshire Branch Library, Thursday, February 11th, 2 p.m. 149 N. Saint Andrews Pl. Information: (323) 957-4550, lapl.com

**MUSIC**

**Friends Keep Secrets Presents Uberproducer Benny Blanco**
Blanco takes over the El Rey to showcase the stars of his record label Friends Keep Secrets. Artists scheduled to perform include soul singer Jessie Ware, turntablist Cashmere Cat, indie pop singer-songwriter Ryn Weaver and rapper Tory Lanez. Bring your dancing shoes and a taste for the eclectic. Tickets are $59. The El Rey, Thu. February 18th, 9 p.m. 5525 Wilshire Blvd. Information: theelrey.com

**PiNo Opera: Music From Final Fantasy**
The Final Fantasy video game series is well known for its music. Composer Nobuo Uematsu, who wrote the music for the first twelve entries in the series, and pianist Hiroyuki Nakayama will perform the franchise’s greatest hits accompanied by video projections of famous moments from the games. Tickets start at $59. Wilshire Ebell Theatre, Sun. February 28th, 8 p.m. 4401 West 8th St. Information: ebellla.org/theatre

**Piano Opera: Music From Final Fantasy**
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**Echo Horizon**

**Inquiry and Innovation**

By Lane Bynum, 5th grade, Delilah Kohn 6th grade, and Ella Richman, 6th grade

We have started our passion projects for our Inquiry and Innovation (2) time. For passion projects, we start with a question that has something to do with what we want to learn and use it to help other people.

Our question is how might I learn to knit to help homeless puppies and kittens in the shelters. I started by doing research and looking up the needs of puppies and kittens. Then I started planning my ideas and got peer feedback. After that, we will start drawing out our designs to see which one is the best.

By Lane Bynum, 5th grade, Delilah Kohn 6th grade, and Ella Richman, 6th grade

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**Immaculate Heart**

**Never a Dull Moment!**

*By Ashley Conde '17*

With the holidays and semester break now over, some might expect February to be an uneventful month, but not at Immaculate Heart! February is rife with tradition, reflection, and academic and artistic excellence.

Immaculate Heart’s annual Ring Ceremony this month is a cherished school tradition that celebrates the upper class status of the juniors. Members of the Class of 2017, their parents, and the seniors will participate in the festive February 5th event that will feature a liturgy, followed by the blessing and distribution of the class rings. The school ring is a beautiful symbol of the Immaculate Heart sisterhood, unity, and tradition of our students. The ring depicts a heart pierced by a sword surrounded by roses. This image was worn as a silver pin by the school’s founders, the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The class rings remind students of the school’s rich history – now in its 115th year – and further bind juniors to the Immaculate Heart school community.

February is also a month of remembrance and reflection for the student body. On Ash Wednesday, February 10th, students will prepare for the Catholic liturgical season of Lent. This time calls people of all faith traditions to reflect on their lives. The following week, IH’s Campus Ministry Leadership Team (CMLT) will host the Sophomore Day of Recollection. Sophomores will be given the opportunity to take a break from school and focus on reflecting and bonding with their classmates.

As the sports winter season comes to a close, the spring sports of track and field, swimming, and softball will begin tryouts. Congratulations to all the athletes!

Immaculate Heart’s rigorous academic curriculum continues to challenge students. Now in their second semester, students are busy applying what they learned in their first semester classes. While some take college admission tests, others study for the spring’s Advanced Placement exams. Students will also soon schedule their classes for the next school year. Among the new offerings next fall will be the new AP Capstone course. College Board recently selected Immaculate Heart to be among the handful of schools in Southern California to offer this innovative and challenging program. AP Capstone consists of two year-long foundation courses, AP Seminar and AP Research. The course work will equip students with independent research, collaborative teamwork, and communication skills. Both classes will provide students with the opportunity to practically apply their knowledge from all subjects.

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**Brawerman East**

**Buddies at Brawerman**

By Samantha Abrams and Emily Levin, 4th Grade

At Brawerman East, we have a Buddy Program. The oldest students, who are in 4th grade, are paired with the youngest students, who are in Kindergarten. We get together each month for a special project. In November, we read Thanksgiving books and worked in centers to make butter and pumpkin bread. We also learned songs and made a Circle of Thanks. In December, we read a book about dreidels and then made edible dreidels out of marshmallows, pretzels, and chocolate. I love seeing my buddy Ella around school. We always wave or give hugs. It is like having a little sister. The third graders also have buddies. They work with the Nursery school children.

This month, we will start our first Brawerman East Basketball Team. The team is part of the new Hollywood-Wilshire League. We have a co-ed 4th grade team. Some of the other schools have 4th, 5th, and 6th graders on teams. We have a new scoreboard for our rooftop athletic complex, and we will get new team jerseys. We have practice or a game every Tuesday and Thursday.

I think it will be a great season. We plan to work hard, have good sportsmanship, have fun, and win.

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**The Larchmont Ledger is hiring!**

**Advertising Sales**

If you already like to be out and about in the neighborhood, shopping, dining and meeting people, we have a perfect job opportunity for you!

- We are looking for an advertising sales person responsible for growing our advertising sales and working strategically with clients on their advertising campaigns.
- Experience in sales, not required, but preferred.
- Must know our coverage area well, be personable and detailed oriented.
- This is a great position either full or part-time.
- Salary: commission on sales.

**Columnists**

- We are looking for writers that want to write about their neighborhood, like Larchmont Village, Hancock Park, Sycamore Square Windsor Square, Mid-Wilshire, Koreatown or Layfayette Square.
- This is a fun position for those looking to get published and who like to talk and let others know about their neighborhood.

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**PAGE PRIVATE SCHOOL**

**A New Year Has Arrived**

*By Skyla Wilkins, 3rd Grade*

What a new year and a new me! In February, we will be having our class Valentine’s Day Party, and sending Valentine’s Day Grams, so we can share our love with everybody. President’s Day is after Valentine’s Day, and school will be closed. We will also have enrichment week, where we get to do fun activities and learn about George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.

The teachers have also been working hard collecting change for Pennies for Patients, which helps children and adults with blood cancers like leukemia.

This month is also the Grand opening of our school library! Bevin Hamilton, the author of Riley the Porcupine and His Magic Quills, will visit and share her book with us.

We are going to have a lot of fun!
Students lined up and entered the dome, where they were amazed to see a 360-degree projection of the Mojave Desert.

It’s Cookie Time Again

Nearly 3 million boxes of Girl Scout Cookies officially arrived in Greater Los Angeles last month, giving roughly 40,000 girls the opportunity to hone their entrepreneurial leadership skills.

Girl Scouts loaded up their wagons (or “cookie mobiles”) as they like to call them and began selling door-to-door January 24th, and they’re just getting started!

Don’t want to wait for your doorbell to ring? Head to Larchmont for your cookie fee-tastic, which is $6.

PILGRIM SCHOOL
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What is so unique about a Pilgrim education?
Early Education: where the youngest students learn through play in our child-centered indoor/outdoor classrooms.

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While my children are accustomed to city life and the unexpected sights it sometimes brings, they have reacted to these more invasive and aggressive incidents with questions and concerns.

"When there is an unpleasing odor or an obvious lack of physical hygiene, there are more questions," writes Huffington Post. "Why does he smell like that? Is he dangerous? Are we safe? Explaining mental illness is both tricky and important."  

All experts agree that the best course of action is to respond to questions honestly and without projecting judgment. Encourage empathy and stick with explanations that children can understand—like the fact that paying for a home costs a great deal of money. Explaining mental instability can be tough, but child development specialist Betsy Brown Braun offers this talking point for youngsters.

"Mental illness is when a person's brain is not working the way it is supposed to. Just like people have problems with their bodies, sometimes a person has a problem with his brain." She is also quick to point out, "It is important, for the sake of the child, to add that it is not common to have those kinds of problems."  

Last but not least, if you're looking for something more extensive, the National Coalition for the Homeless provides a wonderful fact sheet aimed at kindergarten through 2nd grade children.

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The Schers were also denied their request by the City’s Ethics Commission’s Ishimaru. The couple said they are now intending to file a lawsuit for the records.

According to Scher, the General Services department asked for more time to respond to his request, which it has a legal right to do, and they now expect an answer by January 27th.

Meanwhile, in December Rya asked the city's Chief Legislative Analyst, with the assistance of the Los Angeles City Attorney’s office, to recommend a standardized transition plan for city council offices, specifically during a transition when one councilmember is replacing another.

"The Office of the Mayor has such a protocol for such transitions between administrations," the motion read, "but the City Council does not have an official protocol for transitions."

“We are looking toward the future based on our own experiences and what other council offices have shared,” Ryu spokesperson Estevan Moreno said. “It would be beneficial…It would have been so helpful if we had had this, before.”

The Ledger reached out to other former LaBonge staffers in December asking if they could confirm their colleague’s account. None responded.

While acknowledging the rise in reported crime last year, police pointed out that crime in Los Angeles continues to be at historic lows. Overall, reported crime in 2015 represented a 21% decrease in crime compared to ten years ago. These include increasing the number of officers able to rapidly respond to crime spikes, expanding the outreach program for at-risk youth, and doubling the number of specially-trained officers who can respond to incidents involving a mental health issue.

The number of Domestic Abuse Response Teams will also be doubled to better prevent and respond to domestic violence incidents and police will combine with City and County efforts to help reduce homelessness.

Los Angeles Police Department Explains Rise in 2015 Crimes

LOS ANGELES—In January, the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) held a press conference to address the rise in crime recorded in 2015.

Several factors were cited to account for the increased number of reported violent and property crimes last year. One cause was “potential unintended effects” stemming from two recent laws—Proposition 47 and AB 109—which reduced penalties for certain offenses and promised services to parolees which have not yet materialized.

Stricter rules on the reporting of aggravated assaults also raised the numbers. Additionally, increased outreach to victims of domestic violence, traditionally an underreported crime, resulted in more victims coming forward.

Finally, the increase in the homeless population has increased the number of potential victims vulnerable to property and violent crimes. While acknowledging the rise in reported crime last year,
Sustainability and Innovation in Home Interiors

Sarah Barnard Design:

Sarah Barnard is an interior designer who focuses more on how a home affects it occupant and less on the outside world. She believes that to attain total relaxation and harmony with the universe, one needs to think about the healthfulness of the design that one lives in.

“When we come home from wherever we’ve been, we want a place that makes us feel really good,” said Barnard. “When you walk into a room that isn’t good, you don’t want to stay and whatever it is that’s not right won’t put a body at ease.”

Barnard is a member of the American Society of Interior Designers, a recognized practitioner of the principles of Bau-Biologic & Ecology and a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Accredited Professional. She brings to her designs a philosophy that converges sustainability and smart design to create healthy, and ecological homes.

“One of my strong suits,” Barnard said, “is being able to understand the value of preserving historic architecture that accommodates modern ecological ways of living.”

She holds a Master of Fine Arts degree from Claremont Graduate University as well as undergraduate degrees in art, and interior architectural design. This formal education combined with her interests in art, architecture, textiles and the environment have given Barnard a unique perspective and a broad skill set which her clients have come to appreciate.

“Sarah wasn’t about mirroring my ideas back to me,” said Seth Resnick, a client who owns a 1918 Craftsman bungalow in West Hollywood who has come to appreciate. “I have traveled the globe and ecological ways of living.”

Barnard has served on the Santa Monica Conservation’s board of directors, and is particularly innovative with historic-driven design. “Sarah was able to take us way beyond something we would have thought of doing,” said Mark Needham, a Santa Monica client whose 1952 Cape Cod revival home was transformed by Barnard. “She managed to update, but stay within the right look for the house.”

On a typical project, Barnard might interplay the comfort of heated flooring and efficiency of LED lighting with small-batch ceramic tile craftsmanship, using historic methods—all in keeping with a home’s original architectural intent.

“I have traveled the globe to seek out the special thing for each project,” said Barnard, “I have thought of doing.”

Sarah Barnard Design
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RE:CODE LA from page 4

feels fortunate that his neighbor- hood is now protected by an ICO. He said he under- stands the compelling finan- cial incentive driving devel- opers, but said their methods are not only destructive, but counterproductive to their own purposes.

[Developers] go into resurgent historic neighbor- hoods that are re-emerging part- ly because they are historic… and they build buildings that are corrosive to that exact character that created the heart in that area in the first place, which is the craziest thing I’ve ever seen”.

D’Atri said there were cases in the Larchmont area where residents did not realize that a house was earmarked for demolition until they saw bulldozers.

“You don’t know it until it happens,” said D’Atri “and then it happens not once, but half a dozen times,” he said.

According to Tom Rothmann, a principal city planner working on the recoding proj- ect, recode LA will eliminate the need for interim or overlay zones in the future. Interim fixes are good, he said, but only in an emergency.

According to Rothmann, the current zoning for single-family housing has a “one-size-fits-all” residential code, called R-1, for most neighborhoods of the city. But not all neighbor- hoods are alike, he said, and therefore, this approach no longer works. The idea behind recode LA is to have the code conform to the community, rather than have the commu- nity conform to the code.

“Re:code is attempting to provide different flavors of R1 zoning: different scales, different urban design issues, different ways of treating individual houses… We think we’re going to have a palette of R1 zones that will satisfy our single fam- ily neighborhoods… It will recognize that some neighbor- hoods have their own unique charac- teristics,” he said.

Rothmann stressed there is a difference between plan- ning a neighborhood and zoning one. Community plans— of which there are 35 in Los Angeles—guide the physical development of neighbor- hoods by establishing the goals and policies for land use.

“The point of recode is to provide neighborhoods better protections and better zoning,” said Rothmann. “How [these zoning regulators] get implemented is done by our commu- nity planners… Recode is just providing the toolkit.”

Rothmann’s hope is that the long-awaited BMO revisi- ons will be adopted by the city council by summer and that it will reduce the need for further ICO requests.

Ultimately, recode LA will absorb the entire patch- work of ordinances approved up to the date of its adoption. And what if the City Council is unable to approve the fast-tracked, recode LA zoning guidelines for single-family housing before the local ICOS lapse in March of 2017? The affected neighbor- hoods will revert to whatever the current permanent code is at that time.
SOLD | $3,450,000

234 S. RIMPAU BL. HANCOCK PARK $3,450,000

SOLD | $1,150,000

535 N. CAHUENGA BL. HANCOCK PARK $2,717,775
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