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THE WEATHER, BEVERLY HILLS

☀️ Friday	60° 79°
☀️ Saturday	58° 70°
☀️ Sunday	51° 70°
☀️ Monday	50° 74°
☀️ Tuesday	49° 73°
☀️ Wednesday	50° 71°
☀️ Thursday	51° 73°

The Candidates Speak to the Courier | Part One of Two

Lindsey Horvath on Her Race for L.A. County Supervisor



Photo courtesy Horvath for LA County Supervisor

Lindsey Horvath

BY ANA FIGUEROA

On Nov. 8, voters will choose a new Los Angeles County Supervisor for the powerful 3rd District seat currently held by Sheila Kuehl, who is retiring. The district, which includes Beverly Hills, stretches from Santa Monica and Malibu to the San Fernando Valley and out as far as Westlake Village. Its population of 2 million residents exceeds that of 14 states. Contending for the seat are two high-profile runoff candidates, West Hollywood City Councilmember and two-time Mayor Lindsey Horvath and State Sen. Bob

Hertzberg. Both have granted interviews to the Courier about the most pressing issues in this high-stakes race. Part One of this series will spotlight Horvath. Part Two will appear in the Oct. 28 issue of the Courier and will feature Hertzberg.

BHC: Crime is a paramount issue on the minds of voters right now. Cities such as Beverly Hills are dedicating extra resources to its police department. This past summer, you cast a vote in West Hollywood that was widely seen as part of the “defund See HORVATH, page 21

David Foster and Katharine McPhee Will Headline Rodeo Drive Holiday Lighting Celebration

BY OMAR REYES BENÍTEZ

The City of Beverly Hills and the Rodeo Drive Committee have announced that the annual Rodeo Drive Holiday Lighting Celebration will return on Nov. 17. This year's theme is “Beverly Hills Express,” centered around a glittering-red stationary train engine and caboose that will be on display from Wilshire Drive to Santa Monica Boulevard. The city is preparing for thousands to attend and help kick off the holiday season.

Aside from the locomotive that will be stacked high with ornaments and wrapped gifts, Rodeo Drive will be decorated and equipped with several other festive attractions. Sixteen-time Grammy award-winning

See HOLIDAY LIGHTING, page 18



Photo courtesy City of Beverly Hills Holiday Celebration 2021

BHUSD Board Candidates Share Views at Debates

BY BIANCA HEYWARD

The five candidates vying for one of two open seats on the Beverly Hills Unified School District (BHUSD) Board of Education in the upcoming Nov. 8 General Election participated in two forums this week, one hosted by the Chamber of Commerce and the other by students. At the Chamber's Oct. 17 forum, Farrah Dodes, Janessa LaVoice, Judy Manouchehri, Rachele Marcus, and Michal Amir-Salkin answered questions about their platform, strengthening the relationship between students and the local business community, drug abuse and budgeting district funds. On Oct. 18, candidates gathered at the Jon Cherney Lecture Hall at Beverly Hills High School (BHHS) for a student run forum organized by the BHHS Interact Club and Teen Beverly Hills Education Foundation (BHEF) and answered questions related to budgeting priorities, construction delays, academic offerings, accessibility to students, and settling differences of opinion within the community. Marcus, who has taught at the district for over 50 years, is the sole incumbent.

At the Chamber forum moderated by David Mirharooni, Chair of the Government Affairs Committee, Marcus was asked why she chose to run, again. The longtime Beverly Hills resident cited her institutional knowledge, history on the board, and longstanding

See BHUSD, page 16

Electric Vehicles, Fentanyl Danger on Council Agenda

BY MATTHEW BLAKE

Beverly Hills is preparing for an electric vehicle future.

At a regular City Council meeting Oct. 18, city planners proposed that for each new residential unit built in Beverly Hills with an assigned parking space, the spot must be ready to have an electric vehicle charger installed. By ready, city officials mean a branch circuit with cable raceways to enable charging.

The rule is part of a new building and fire safety code proposed by Arlen Eskandari, supervising plan review engineer for the city. Every three years the state of California hammers out new code statutes that cities

See COUNCIL, page 13

Beverly Hills Fall Art Show Makes a Triumphant Return

BY NATHAN ANSELL

Four blocks of Santa Monica Boulevard were once again enveloped with paintings, sculptures and other creations during the fall iteration of the 49th biannual Beverly Hills Art Show. Tens of thousands of visitors flocked to Beverly Gardens Park Oct.15-16, wandering through the formation of tents and making conversation with the artists.

Following a virtual format that took place over the course of social distancing, the in-person art show returned with a scaled-down roster of 130 artists in October 2021. May's art show featured works from about 150 people, but the fall 2022 show neared pre-pandemic size with contributions from roughly 230 artists – including a dozen Beverly Hills residents.

"This is the only place that I've been showing my art," Beverly Hills wood sculptor Atta Lavi told the Courier. "I like this location and the reputation of the place, the variety of the show and artists that are here."

A staple of the city's arts scene, the show drew participants from all across the



Photo by Nathan Ansell

Mayor Lili Bosse presented the Mayor's Purchase Award to Beverly Hills resident and Arts and Culture Commissioner Pamela Beck.

See ART SHOW, page 19

Planning Commission Debates Lexington Road Project

BY MATTHEW BLAKE

A mansion that prolific real estate investor David Taban has planned for Lexington Road continues to vex the Beverly Hills Planning Commission.

During its Oct. 13 meeting, the five-member panel did make progress in greenlighting the construction of a home at 1510 Lexington Road that is a half-dozen years in the making. Commissioners decided that they would vote Dec. 8 on approving two different permits. One would let Taban build a home that surpasses 15,000 square feet. Another allows construction crews to unearth more than 3,000 cubic yards from the site in order to build a basement.

While the majority of commissioners indicated that they were ready to grant these permits, they remained stuck on the issue of trees.

Commissioners held off on advancing a permit for Taban – the official owner is a limited liability company, Lexington Road LLC – to cut down 10 trees on the site, five of which have already been razed. Instead,

commissioners voted to have the Planning Department locate an independent arborist who can visit the property and make a finding on the health of four cedar and one Victorian box trees, and whether they are suitable to be cut.

Taban himself was not at the hearing, and instead was represented by his lawyer, Ronald Richards, who at times was combative and impatient with the unhurried panel.

"Trust is not in great supply here," said Commission Vice Chair Gary Ross.

The owner of dozens of commercial and residential properties throughout Los Angeles County, some through his family business, Jade Enterprises, Taban – who did not respond to messages for this article – took over the Lexington Road property in 2015. The Taban-formed LLC first submitted approval for a floor area that exceeded the city's prescribed hillside properties limits in 2016.

The project lay dormant for several years, but it was revived in Planning Commission hearings this July and August. During those

See COMMISSION, page 21

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ART SHOW, from page 4

country. In addition to visual displays, other attractions occupied the space between Rodeo Drive and Rexford Drive, from live music and children's activities to an array of gourmet food trucks.

Many artists returned to the show from previous years, but 75 newcomers also put their art on view, such as ceramic artist Daniel Monroe, who brought a range of lamps to the show. He explained that he brought both normal, design-oriented lamps and lamps that were altered or exploded, the latter of which represented the difficulty and weight he felt during the past two years.

"[I was] like, 'Hey, let's take this creative leap and see if it works out,'" Monroe told the Courier. "Sixty percent of the time, it doesn't work out, that was a waste of time. But then that special forty percent of the time, it's really cool."

It wasn't just the Fullerton resident's first Beverly Hills Art Show – it was his first art show of any kind.

"I don't think I was nervous, just trying to figure out how to set up everything," Monroe said. "But once I set up, it's been exciting to be in a place with all these other fantastic artists and be able to talk about your work with people who stop by."

The majority of the artists were Californians, with several entrants submitting pieces depicting scenes from The Golden State. Emily Wallerstein, who moved to Los Angeles 10 years ago and has been attending the art show since 2019, is one



Photo by Nathan Ansell

Art Show winners are pictured (top row from left): Hannah Jay, Aghassi Boghos Taslakian, Adam Matano, Reed Bowman, Melody Emrani, Fortune Sitole, Amy C. Pyles, (bottom row, from left) Commissioners Deborah Frank, Karla Gordy Bristol, Alissa Roston, 1st Place Watercolor winner Taman Vanscoy, Mayor Lili Bosse, Mayor's Purchase Award Winner Commissioner Pamela Beck, 1st Place Ceramics Winner Keumsook Hahn, Commissioners Amie Sherry, Maralee Beck, Myra Lurie and Liliana Filipovic

such entrant. Her landscape paintings included the Los Angeles River and iconic beaches as subjects.

"There's a lot of vibrancy to the Los Angeles art scene," Wallerstein told the Courier. "You can get to the desert, you can get to the mountain, you can get to the ocean. It's really an inspiring state."

Wallerstein characterized Beverly Hills as one of the most prominent parts of the Los Angeles art scene. In turn, she said, local happenings bring "newness" to the global art community.

On Oct. 16, Beverly Hills Mayor Lili Bosse handed out ribbons behind the Lily Pond to the winners of 16 awards – 11 art categories

and five general awards.

Bay Area resident Fortune Sitole was one of three people to receive multiple awards – Best of Show and First Place in 2D Mixed Media. Sitole, who used aluminum, oil paint, sand, and rocks to depict vibrant scenes of South Africa, told the Courier that he was "not afraid of color" in his artwork.

"Nowadays, with the internet, I can put on radio programs in South Africa," Sitole said. "I can imagine people, what they are doing when I'm working."

The final award announced was the Mayor's Choice Award. Per tradition, Bosse chose a piece to be installed at a public building or facility. Fittingly, this year's Mayor's Choice recipient, photographer Pamela Beck, is from Beverly Hills herself.

"I wanted to pick a piece of art that exemplifies what I want people to feel when they walk into Beverly Hills," Bosse said. "A sense of light, a sense of future, a sense of hope." ●

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with guest Brianna Wiest

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11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

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*Limited seating available

Come join us for our next Mayor's Mental Wellness Series where the community has an opportunity to hear from health and mental wellness experts who will inspire us to be resilient and connect with ourselves and each other.

MORE INFORMATION AT
Beverlyhills.org/mentalwellness

"Happiness is not having the best of everything, but the ability to make the best of anything."
~ Brianna Wiest