AMC Theatre to Open July 15

AMC Theatres announced in a letter to their “Stubs” members that movies will be returning to the big screen on July 15. That Wednesday AMC will open 450 locations around the County, showing new releases as well as classic movies. Their opening movies will be Disney’s “Mulan” and the Warner Bros. release of Christopher Nolan’s intriguing “Tenet,” along with other movies now scheduled for a July release.

They are implementing “Safe and Clean,” a comprehensive array of new policies and protocols specifically designed to welcome viewers back to the theatre. That will include seat capacity restrictions, social distancing efforts, commitments to health, new intensified cleaning protocols, contactless ticketing and expanded mobile ordering of food and beverages. They have invested millions of dollars in high-tech solutions to sanitation, disinfection and cleanliness, including electrostatic sprayers, HEPA filter vacuum cleaners and MERV 13 air ventilation filters.

AMC will post opening dates of individual theatres on their website early July (amctheatres.com).

“Cinema in Cars” To Roll Out July 12

Valley Cultural Foundation has found a way, even during a pandemic, to make it “a beautiful day in the neighborhood.” VCF, the leading art organization in the San Fernando Valley, has found a way to save a little bit of summer with “Drive-Up Movies” beginning Sunday, July 12, at a temporary location at the Disabled American Veterans Hall, 6543 Corbin Avenue, Woodland Hills.

Along with the movies they’ll bring a little bit of the Sunday concerts to the event with Emerging Artists with the opening acts beginning at 7:45 pm and the movies beginning after dusk.

Nora Ross, CEO of the Valley Cultural Foundation, said, “This has been quite a year as a result of COVID-19 and our 2020 season is not quite as we had envisioned. During this time the Board of Directors and staff have been working on creating events that will provide our attendees with an evening out with family and friends while keeping socially responsible yet getting back more beds in our communities in order to move people off the street and have some ability to enforce anti-camping laws.

I understand why people are calling, frustrated by the growing encampments - especially under freeways. I’m frustrated too. Despite sending City CARE teams to the underpasses every week, personally going to these sites with LAHSA workers, the attempts I’ve made to enact special high transit corridor legislation, and offering every (Continued to page 6)

Shelter Beds Are Key to Progress on Homelessness

By Bob Blumenfield

In the first three months of 2020, Woodland Hills made the most 311 service calls related to homelessness in the City, even though it has fewer homeless people than the vast majority of LA’s communities (see https://xtown.la/2019/11/20/who-complains-homeless-la/).

The best way to reduce calls is moving people off the street, and the key to that is building new shelters in the West Valley. Whether people like the idea or hate it, we simply must create more beds in our communities in order to move people off the street and have some ability to enforce anti-camping laws.

I understand why people are calling, frustrated by the growing encampments - especially under freeways. I’m frustrated too. Despite sending City CARE teams to the underpasses every week, personally going to these sites with LAHSA workers, the attempts I’ve made to enact special high transit corridor legislation, and offering every (Continued to page 6)
COMMUNITY

To Our Valued Customers:
This year Las Virgenes Municipal Water District will be distributing the annual Consumer Confidence Report/Water Quality Report online at LVMWD.com/WQR2019 Available July 1, 2020

Customers who requested a paper copy last year will have a copy mailed automatically.

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SHAKESPEARE IN THE TIME OF COVID-19
by Sondra Merlot Directed by Jon Berry Starring Louis Baker Keith Brizell Holland

TECH SUPPORT
by Daniel Krause Directed by Jon Berry Starring Dontrail Brinson Mia Geere

THE READING OF THE WILL
by Joanne Zahorsky-Reeves Directed by Jon Berry Starring Kimberly King Dushawn Moses Mia Geere

MUSIC WITH CRYSTAL MCSUNSHINE
by Jon Berry Starring Crystal McSunshine

JUNE 28, 2020 @ 2:30 PM
RESERVE YOUR TICKETS ONLINE: www.wvplayhouse.com We will send you Zoom link and password
For more info call our Box Office: 818/884.1907
This project is supported in part by a grant from the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

CALABASAS: The Calabasas Library is presenting Yoga & You. Join them for a lunchtime session of yoga on Thursdays July 2, 16 and 30 at noon. Wear comfortable clothing, bring a yoga mat or large towel and water. No experience is necessary and all are welcome. The Yoga Instructor is Deanne Wenger. For more information, please visit the website at http://www.calabasaslibrary.org.

WOODLAND HILLS: The West Valley Warner Center Chamber of Commerce will host their “Comedy and Connections” Zoom networking breakfast on Wednesday, July 1 at 7:30 am. Sponsored by Steve Hochman of SolarHawk. RSVP’s are required by 3 pm Tuesday, June 30. To reserve your spot and receive an email invitation visit woodlandhillscc.net. Cost is $10 for members and one-time guests.

VALLEYWIDE: The virtual Esophageal Cancer Walk/Run will take place this weekend, June 27 and 28. There are two ticket options - $30 to participate in the virtual event and receive a tee shirt or a virtual tickets only for $20. Register at salgivirtualwalkrun2020.eventbrite.com. The Salgi Esophageal Cancer Research Foundation fights the cancer that has increased over 733% in the past four decades and is considered the fastest growing cancer in the United States.

CALABASAS: The Leonis Adobe is continuing their series “Leonis Legacies” with a video about Espiritu Chijulla Leonis. Espiritu Chijulla Leonis is best known as the Chumash-Tongva common-law wife of Miguel Leonis. Her story only gets more extraordinary from there; with all odds pitted against her, she fought a legal battle for a wife’s share of Miguel’s estate which would last 16 years. Learn more about her story at Facebook.com/leonisadobemuseum.

TARZANA: The Tarzana Community and Cultural Center has reopened as of June 15 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 11 am to 3 pm. They offer “Stretching for Life” classes on Mondays. The Flex Appeal Stretching Class offers full body guided stretching at your own pace on Monday at 12:30 pm. Cost is $6 per class. Register at stretching4life@aol.com. Art classes are offered by Cris Gordy both in one-one-one and group watercolor and sketching via Zoom. To register email crisdjordy@sbcglobalnet. A variety of drawing and painting classes are also being offered through Pastime for a Lifetime art studio. To register visit www.pastimesinc.com.

CALABASAS: The Calabasas Library’s Online Summer Reading Program “Dig Deeper” continues through Sunday, August 2. All ages can read books throughout the summer, participate in the Library’s Online Summer Reading Program and enter drawings for gift cards. The Library will have entertaining programs for K-5th graders on Wednesdays at 4 pm. All programming will be online and on the Library’s Facebook page, Twitter and YouTube channel.

July 1 - Wed. @ 4pm - Doodle Party - Learn to create and decorate your pages with various shapes and designs! Post your art from this event with #calabasaslibSRP20 on Twitter @calabasaslib or Instagram @calabasaslibrary.

July 8 - Wed. @ 4pm - Marc Griffiths - Journey to “Imagination Island” with the hilariously gifted and inspirational ventriloquist Marc Griffiths and his cast of puppets!
**PEOPLE IN THE NEWS**

**FUNNY GUY -** Kudos to Bob Epstein, right, attorney in Woodland Hills and budding comedian. He took his talents to the Temple Aliyah’s “Aliyah’s Got Talent” virtual contest - and was one of the top five finalists, earning the coveted second place spot. He also garnered the most in donations for the fundraiser. Comedian and judge Howie Mandel lauded Epstein as “funny.” Epstein regularly entertains the crowds at the West Valley Warner Center Chamber meetings with his humor, though Mandel jokingly pointed out that Epstein’s wife, who was in the room while he filmed, didn’t even clap for him.

Other finalists in the Temple program were Shira Kreitenberg, The Luner Family, Zoe Saltz and The Silversteins.

**FIGHTING FOR AIR:** Mercy Alpert, right, every year participates in the American Lung Association’s “Fight for Air Climb Los Angeles” and is taking on the challenge even though the actual annual stair climb downtown was cancelled. Last year the event took place at Los Angeles’ AON Tower, with 1,393 steps. This year, Alpert is climbing the stairs at Angel’s Flight with her son Derek, at left. The American Lung Association just launched their COVID-19 Action Initiative, a comprehensive $25 million effort to end COVID-19 and defend against future respiratory virus pandemics. In 2017 Alpert won “First Female Finisher 50-59”, in the American Lung Association Fight for Air Climb 10th Year Anniversary.

**COMMUNITY**

**STUDENTS IN THE NEWS**

Curry College in Massachusetts has announced that Aviva Hollander of Woodland Hills has been named to the Dean’s List for the Spring 2020 semester.

Elisabeth Grossman of Woodland Hills graduated from Ithaca College with a BS in Theatre Arts Management.

Batya Conn, Jesse Fulton and Isabel Sami of Agoura Hills, and Jamie De Cesare of Calabasas, have all been named to Emerson College’s Dean’s List for the Spring 2020 semester.

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“Fault of the Leadership of the City…”

Quote by Rick J. Caruso, developer of the Grove, the Commons and other shopping centers, when asked about the recent riots in Los Angeles that caused major damage to his property and others in Metropolitan L.A.

While regions of Southern California continue to recover from protests, rioting and looting, many stores remain closed while repairs continue so they can open for shoppers. With the looting, burning and other intentional acts of violence and damage to both public and private property costing millions of dollars, the costly recovery slowly continues.

A large number of LAPD black and white police cars were destroyed beyond repair. $40 million was spent in police overtime and the curfew alone.

As the governor relaxes the restrictions on business and the movement of the public due to Covid-19, people are venturing out into the community and resuming a life of some normalcy. As days and weeks pass, we see the return of traffic congestion on freeways, people hurrying around to get to their destinations and a slow return to a “new” way of normalcy.

Cowering to the demands of hostile groups, Mayor Garcetti, without considering the consequences to public safety, stated that he would recommend slashing the Los Angeles Police Department budget by $150 million. Since the new budget takes effect on July 1, 2020, there is little time to truly meet and confer with labor organizations how the $150 million will be conferred with labor organizations and the LA City Council agreed with the spineless LAPD budget by the spineless Mayor, 12 cowardly members of the L A City Council agreed with the his honor to slash the police budget. Only three councilmembers had the courage to stand up for public safety and vote against the foolish plan to cave to the demands of hostile anti-police groups.

While discussing the LAPD budget, let me share with you the most recent LAPD Crime Stats as of June 13, 2020.

The stats compare 2018 to 2020 arrests.

Note that all arrests are down a total of -30.7%
Homicide -20.3%
Rape -22.6%
Robbery -12.1%
Aggravated Assault -6.5%
Burglary +27.7%
Larceny-46.2%
Motor Vehicle Theft -9.1%
Total Violent -8.6%
Total Part 1 -14.3%
Total All Arrests-30.7%

With arrests plummeting to lower levels, is there is a need for additional or fewer officers? Will you and your family be safer with fewer police officers on the streets of L.A. to respond to 911 calls?

As far as transferring police funds to other organizations dealing with the homeless and mentally ill. Homeless organizations already receive MILLIONS and MILLIONS of dollars from voter approved tax increase while the homeless population continues to increase. Over 800 people are employed to deal with the homeless in L. A. The most recent report listed a double digit increase in homeless over last year.

L.A. County spends over $50 MILLION a year in just the San Fernando Valley dealing with the mentally ill and homeless. The law enforcement community is charged with “Protecting and Serving People and Property.” They are doing what most are afraid to do. They risk their lives protecting you and your family. Today’s police departments consist of all races, genders, religions, and sexual orientations and are open to all people that have a solid background and can be trusted to do the job in an honest and professional manner. Support them before they all retire, resign or move to a city that will respect and appreciate their efforts. “To Protect and Serve” are not just words to police officers. It is a way of life.

Valley Vantage

ENCINO ENTERPRISE

ISOLATED? SELF QUARANTINED?
KEEP UP ON YOUR LOCAL NEWS!

Get the paper delivered to your email every Thursday
Visit valleynewsgroup.com and register or email valleynewsgroup@gmail.com and say “Register Me”
A proposed vacancy tax on unoccupied multifamily units has been postponed until the 2022 election. The Los Angeles City Council this week voted to delay the measure, which would have appeared on the November ballot.

The vacancy tax was proposed as a way to help fight the city’s homeless problem. The Housing and Community Investment Department report estimated that the city has a housing vacancy rate of six to seven percent, or about 85,000 to 100,000 units. If the tax program garnered an estimated $3,000 penalty per unit, it would generate $150 million a year.

VICA and the Greater San Fernando Valley Chamber of Commerce both opposed putting the tax on the ballot now without further study.

“There is noway to describe what the Council was thinking with the proposed vacancy tax other than it would have been rushed and short-sighted,” VICA President Stuart Waldman said in a statement. “The reports were limited and did not fully answer these main questions – how much housing is vacant? And if it is vacant, why? Without clear-cut answers, this tax would have been nothing more than a shot in the dark. Thankfully, the City Council understood this and will delay discussions on placing the vacancy tax on a ballot until 2022. This gives us ample time to iron out the kinks and create a more feasible policy.”

“The report conducted by (the Housing and Community Investment Department of Los Angeles) is deeply limited in its analysis,” VICA said in a statement. “A policy proposal of this magnitude should not be rushed to the ballot without thorough public input and discussion of its details.”

Los Angeles City Councilmember Mike Bonin, for the measure, one of the early proponents of the tax, said during Wednesday’s council meeting that the measure, as written with amendments, would not help with the city’s affordable housing and homelessness crisis. “A relatively harmless loophole for the City of Oakland effectively guts the purpose and intent of a vacancy tax here,” said Bonin. “In Oakland, for instance, if you have a 40- to 50-unit building and 40 of those units are vacant and one of them is occupied, none of them are counted as vacant; that is a big loophole. As a result ... the fiscal value of this for the City of L.A. may be as low as $4 million.”

VICA estimated putting just putting the measure on the ballot in 2020 would have cost $12 million.

The vacancy tax was proposed as a way to fight the city’s homeless problem by taxing unoccupied multifamily units.

Vacancy Tax Postponed Until 2022 Ballot

Getting Back to Business!

Office buildings at the Campus at Warner Center, located at the corner of Canoga Avenue and Burbank Blvd., are quickly filling up. A sign that employees at Anthem and other corporate offices are returning to work after the COVID-19 shut down is the return of the pop-up lunch vendors on site. Ranging from subs and tamales to nuts and Mediterranean offerings, the food stalls are open to the public every Wednesday at 21215 Burbank Blvd.

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  - Paycheck Protection Program: kinecta.org/PPP

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“Knives Out” - A Clever Little Crime Caper

By Theda Kleinmans Reichman

When you hear the name Daniel Craig linked with a murder mystery you automatically think “Bond. James Bond.”

But not this time. In the clever little murder mystery “Knives Out” Craig is a homespun detective called in to find the killer of best-selling mystery writer Harlan Thrombey (Christopher Plummer).

Prior to his demise Thrombey tells his playboy grandson Ransom (Chris Evans) that he and the rest of the family will all be disinherited in his new will. Instead of giving his fortune to them he plans to leave all his money to his lovely nurse caregiver Marta (Ana de Armas). That doesn’t go over well, and shortly thereafter Thrombey is found dead. But who done it? Was it Marta? She is so adorable, you hope that it isn’t her.

Along with the police, enter Louisiana investigator Benoit Blanc (Daniel Craig) who has been hired by an unknown source to find out the killer’s identity.

Alas, all fingers point to Marta, who we and Benoit soon discover is a young woman who cannot tell a lie. In fact if and when she does she automatically throws up. Fear not, she is relatively truthful, unlike Harlan’s greedy relatives.

Jamie Lee Curtis portrays Harlan’s daughter Linda. She is married to Richard (Don Johnson) and they have a son, Ransom (Chris Evans) who is a playboy and the black sheep of the family.

“Knives Out,” a Lionsgate release, is rated PG-13 for thematic content, some disturbing images and strong language. Running time: 126 minutes.

Now on DVD and streaming on Amazon Prime.

(Continued from page 1)

to our new normal. With this new normal we have been working with the Los Angeles County Health Department to provide a safe environment for this event which attendees must follow:

1. A face mask must be worn at all times when you are outside your vehicle (this applies to everyone).
2. You must maintain a six-foot social distance between you and others.
3. There will be social distance lines at the food trucks and restrooms.

“Drive-Up Movies” is limited to 75 vehicles at each event, attendees will need to reserve a space online through our website www.valleycultural.org. Each reservation is $5 which will be given back to the attendee upon arrival.

Below are the dates and movies for the season and our Emerging Artists to be announced shortly:

July 12 - “Artic Dogs.”
July 19 - “A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood.”

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WATCH HERE FOR DETAILS!
ENTERTAINMENT CALENDAR

brought to you by

TOPANGA | THE VILLAGE

Some of Your Favorite Restaurants are Reopening For Dine-In Service

EMC Seafood & Raw Bar and Wokcano at Westfield The Village are now open for dine-in service! Your favorite sushi and seafood dishes are back in time for summer happy hours so grab the family and go out for dinner tonight. Restaurant hours are Sunday to Thursday from 11 am to 12 am, last call at 11:30 pm and Friday and Saturday from 11 am to 2 am, last call at 1:30 am. To make a reservation, call (818) 704-1899.

San Fernando Valley Youth Chorus Virtual Spring Sing Concert!

The San Fernando Valley Youth Chorus invites you to this year’s Madrid Theatre Spring Sing concert as it goes virtual. Hear from the Youth Chorus’ Kinder, Concert and Melodia Leviosa Choirs, along with Music Director Sean Carney and Marla Lowrey. Make plans to join them on Sunday, June 28, from 3 to 4:30 pm for this free online event, featuring young choristers from all three choirs. Visit Eventbrite and search “San Fernando Valley Youth Chorus Virtual Spring Sing Concert!” by Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs to register today and get your event ticket and concert link!

Help Create a Community Cookbook

Has your child been killing time getting creative in the kitchen while stuck at home? Have them join the Canoga Park Branch Library Mondays at 1 pm via Zoom as they curate a Teen Heritage Cookbook together! Participants are asked to provide a favorite family recipe and each week the team will work on a portion of each teen's submission. At the end of the series, each teen will get their own copy of the cookbook! The program is for teenagers aged 12 to 18. For access to the meeting, email mmelkonian@lapl.org.

Total Woman Gym & Spa is excited to welcome customers back to the gym at Westfield Topanga and the Village. While the spa remains closed for the time being, guests are welcome back to enjoy gym equipment and get back into their routine. Contact the gym at (818) 710.7606 or visit their website, totalwomanspa.com, to see the safety measures being implemented.

#WestfieldDelivers

Valley News Group, June 25, 2020, Page 7
Learn How to Use Essential Oils

The Calabasas Library will present a special session on Thursday, July 9, at noon. Paula Fortunato will demonstrate how to use essential oils to create personal care products including dry shampoo and lotion. This will be uploaded on the Library’s social media. Paula Fortunato is a trained and certified E-RYT, CMT, C-IAYT. For more information, please visit the website at http://www.calabasaslibrary.org.

How Two Cities Cured the Pandemic

By Janey M. Rifkin

A true story happening around the world serves as a mighty good lesson for us to learn.

Hong Kong and Singapore reported their first cases of the novel coronavirus in January. Then, four months later, the densely populated Asian metropolises, with a combined population of about 13 million have seen 27 fatalities between them. By contrast, if the U.S. had a comparable record, our fatality numbers would be more like 4,100 instead of the 100,000 and growing numbers recorded in our 50 states.

How did this happen? If you go to Taiwan or Singapore, every one has a mask on all the time - healthy or sick! This inexpensive practice, in conjunction with simultaneous social distancing and contact tracing represent the most likely fighting opportunity to stop the pandemic. The populations are acquisitive and it’s clear that masking is the element that changes the trajectories of the Covid pandemic. They haven’t seen spikes because there’s a strong universal masking culture in both cities.

Neither city had a shortage of critical-care equipment such as ventilators because so few patients needed them. Able to perform extensive testing, they quickly determined who was infected and isolated them. This strategy helped Hong Kong and Singapore keep the virus away from tightly packed groups of older people who are more susceptible to dying from the disease. In each city, the median age of those infected was 35 with only about 5% of cases occurring in people age 70 and above.

Doctors and researchers in both locations, free from being inundated by a crisis, have been able to focus on finding treatments. In Hong Kong, doctors used a cocktail of drugs that doctors have shown may help suppress infections so they don’t spread to medical workers. Research suggests the drug cocktail appears to help patients recover. Both Singapore and Hong Kong have also benefited from the SARS outbreak in the early 2000’s. It prompted a rethinkting of disease preparedness across Asia. In the current crisis, it was reported hospitals in both areas began stockpiling personal protective equipment in January and a test kit was developed within weeks. Keeping the pandemic at bay was the key factor in saving lives – both these Asian centers were ready and they never let the virus get out of control.

Let us heed the warning. Coronavirus outbreaks do not have to overwhelm us and result in large-scale loss of life. Much has been said that other coronavirus mutations may be in the offing, severe enough to cause worldwide pandemics - and forewarned is forearmed! Such future outbreaks do not have to result in large-scale loss of life.

Janey Rifkin is a syndicated writer and local resident.

Webinar Addresses Mental Health During the Pandemic

The webinar “Managing Employee Mental Health: On-Site, Off-Site, Insights,” will be held at 10 am Friday, June 26. This one-hour event will explore how businesses responding to the COVID-19 pandemic can manage employees who may be suffering from collateral mental health issues. It will also examine the stressors employees may be undergoing as they return to the workplace. Members of the media will be uploaded on the Library’s social media. Paula Fortunato is a trained and certified E-RYT, CMT, C-IAYT. For more information, please visit the website at http://www.calabasaslibrary.org.
TRIMMING YOUR EXPENSES?

HAVE YOU CHECKED THE PREMIUMS ON YOUR MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT PLAN LATERLY?

Many carriers have recently had rate increases. See your age below for rate comparison reality check. Plan G is the change most people are embracing!

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L.A. County rate changes through 4/1/2020. (Compilation of rates from 10 carriers)
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Getting Back to Work? Time to Get Back to the Dentist As Well!

By Dr. Susan Fredericks, DDS

In mid-March, the American Dental Association, in conjunction with their sister state organizations, requested all dental offices close their doors, to curtail the spread of Covid 19. Offices were to be open only to treat emergencies. By late May, most offices were reopening.

The American Dental Association, in conjunction with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, had updated Guidance for Dental Settings, providing stringent new rules. Both organizations describe how dental professionals, building upon existing infection control measures, can help protect patients and their dental team while providing the full range of oral health care.

Oral health is an important part of overall health, and oral health has often been mentioned as the window to the health of the rest of the body. The mouth shows signs and symptoms of what goes on in the rest of the body. If your dental health is poor, in general, that would be a reflection of overall less than optimal health.

Resuming regular dental visits is important because treatment, as well as prevention of dental disease, helps keep people healthy. This is particularly important to seniors, as their dental health becomes more vulnerable and at risk. Oral health is important and necessary.

When my mother was 90 years old, she went in for carotid artery surgery. Her left carotid was 95% blocked and the chance of a stroke was very high. When we arrived for a pre-op check in, Poor dental health translates to poor overall health. My mother at 94 had all her own teeth!

the first nurse asked her many questions and then, at the end, said, “take your teeth out.” My mother stated, “These are my own teeth.” To the great surprise of the nurse my mother had all her teeth. We then proceeded to the next nurse, who asked her all the same health questions, and at the end, said, “Take out your teeth.” My mother was now insulted and told the nurse, “You can be old and have your teeth, these are my teeth.”

The last stop was the anesthesiologist. As this woman sat down, My mother immediately blurted out, “THESE ARE MY OWN TEETH!!!” The octor calmly looked at my mother and said, “Yes, I already know that.” Puzzled, I asked the octor if she had, while looking at the x-rays of the carotid artery, noticed that she had all of her teeth?

The anesthesiologist’s reply was fascinating. She said, “I am head of anesthesia at this hospital. Your mother, based on her age, is a high risk patient. I have been doing this for over 25 years. In that time, when I am intubating patients over 85, I find that most have all or most of their teeth. When I intubate a patient in their 50’s or 60’s missing many teeth, I know that these people are not going to make it to their 80’s. They are going to be dead. Poor dental health translates to poor overall health.”

My mother made it through the surgery, even though the risk of dying on the table was higher than the risk for having a stroke! She lived another four years. She had all her teeth when she died.

Dr. Susan Fredericks owns Southern Cal Smiles in Woodland Hills, specializing in missing teeth and implants. She can be reached at (818) 346-3337. Visit www.southerncalsmiles.com.

Getting Back to Work? Time to Get Back to the Dentist As Well!

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Councilman Supports West Valley Homeless Shelters

(Continued from page 1)

underpass dweller in my district refuge at one of the temporary COVID Rec Center shelters, the underpasses are still encampment hotspots.

Like so many of my constituents, I’m tired of it, of people not receiving lifesaving services, and of being told that court decisions prevent the City from moving tents, bulky items, or having much control beyond briefly enforcing ADA access. It’s not right for nearby communities or for the people living in squalor, breathing the exhaust.

Hope for positive change is on the horizon. Because of a new agreement reached between the County and City of Los Angeles, two major stumbling blocks to progress are being removed. Of critical importance, this agreement is being overseen and will be enforceable by a Federal Judge, David Carter. He is the judge that presided over homeless cases in Orange County, is presiding over the L.A. Alliance for Human Rights v. L.A. case, and has spent months meeting with local leaders grappling with the real world impacts of homelessness.

The first stumbling block is money for services. Prior to the new agreement the County was only willing to pay for the mental health and treatment services of its homeless population. The judge has also made it clear that ‘shelter beds’ can mean anything from a sanctioned encampment on a public lot to the ideal supportive housing to anything in between - shared dormitory housing, tiny homes made out of recycled pallets, safe parking, or bridge housing, etc.

Because the 2020 homeless count shows 704 homeless people residing in District 3 (the fewest of any district), finding enough shelter beds is double and is a top priority. Sufficient beds would be fantastic for the newly sheltered and for the district’s overall quality of life. However, until we deal with the structural problems that are actually causing homelessness such as a lack of affordable housing, drug addiction, income inequality, health care access, etc, any success we have will be short lived as even more people will fall into homelessness. These fundamental problems are ones that the City can help with, but that ultimately require state, federal, and philanthropic focus and resources.

Like so many of my constituents, I’m tired of it.

~Councilman Bob Blumenfield

We have identified several possible locations for such options and am confident that we can house everyone in the underpasses in the district and many at-risk homeless seniors, potentially in a few city-owned sites, a Metro lot and possibly leasing private locations. I recently introduced a motion to negotiate a possible lease with the Knights of Columbus.

In the ideal world, we would create beds for all the unsHELtered people. Judge Carter is trying to quickly move to a lawsuit settlement that will require each council district to provide shelter beds for a specific percentage of its homeless population. The settlement would also enable that district to enforce anti-camping laws once they do so. I have written about this idea in the past (http://blumenfield. lacity.org/judge_carter_and_the_future_of_homelessness_in_la) and I continue to believe that it is a bargain that can finally bring progress to this intractable problem.
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BUYING? SELLING? LEASING?
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Current Market Trends in Real Estate During COVID-19

By Kevin Pike

The period from March through June has felt like an eternity!

So much of our lives have changed, but hopefully not forever, just until this pandemic runs its course and fizzes out - if indeed it does. What has not changed? The timeless and permanent need for shelter.

While the current inventory has shrunk tremendously since March, the demand seems to have remained the same. This makes for more buyers in the market than available homes.

In comparison to last year, the numbers show that home sales from March to June have been reduced almost in half. This isn’t due to the lack of demand, but primarily to the lack of available inventory.

Once we were required to shelter in place, people who were contemplating listing their homes have decided to hold off until the end of this pandemic. This in turn has created bidding wars, driving prices through the roof.

How does this translate for people thinking about buying or selling their homes? Let’s take a look and see…

For home owners thinking about selling, this is one of the absolute best times to sell, as prices are being kept high by the lack of inventory.

For home owners thinking about selling, this is one of the absolute best times to sell, as prices are being kept high by the lack of inventory. Bidding wars will almost assuredly boost your final sale price to higher than expected levels.

For those thinking about buying? Well, that depends on your intentions. If you’re looking to buy for the long term, I tell my clients there is rarely a bad time to buy. Prices will most likely continue to escalate, even if at a slower rate than currently.

If on the other hand, you’re thinking of buying as an investment, it may be wise to wait until prices come down a little, or for a possible economic downturn. This is certainly not the best time to buy and flip, unless you’re able find an amazing buy at below fair market price. In today’s market that is going to be quite a challenge.

Overall, if you have any interest in selling, the current market may very well be the very best time to list your property and sell it at its highest potential price. You’ll most likely be met with multiple offers, resulting in substantially higher than market value sales!

The key is to choose the right offer to assure the final sale price doesn’t decrease during escrow. If you have any questions, please call and let me know.

Kevin Pike is a senior real estate and probate specialist with Coldwell Banker Great Valleys. He works with all age groups to help both buyers and sellers achieve their greatest real estate goals, and can be reached at (818) 571-1508.
Delinquent Property Tax Notices Sent

The Los Angeles County Treasurer and Tax Collector Keith Knox is in the process of mailing approximately 178,000 Notices of Delinquency notices to property owners who have not paid their property taxes in full for the 2019-20 tax year.

“Property owners who were unable to pay their property taxes on time for reasons related to COVID-19 may submit a Penalty Cancellation Request online at ttc.lacounty.gov,” Knox advised.

The notices include the attached insets which provide important information regarding COVID-19 payment options as the Department’s offices remain closed to the public. The taxes are delinquent and will default on Wednesday, July 1, 2020. At that time the tax collector will impose a $15 redemption fee and additional penalties of 1.5% per month on the defaulted taxes.

“We caution property owners that if residential or agricultural property remains tax defaulted for more than five years, we will sell the property at a public auction in accordance with state law,” added Knox.

As a result of this mailing, property owners may find it difficult to reach them on the telephone. They may obtain answers to the great majority of their questions, including but not limited to, how to request a copy of a property tax bill, obtain the amount due on any parcel, or find the tax payment history for the past three fiscal tax years from the Los Angeles County Property Tax Portal at propertytax.lacounty.gov. Property owners may also call the toll-free Property Tax Information Line at (888) 807-2111, where automated information is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Making Way for Porsche to Race In

Keyes Motors is demolishing their old Hyundai dealership at 20539 Ventura (atop Chalk Hill). They are paving the way for their new “Gen 5” Porsche dealership, which will be built to showcase Posche’s new design philosophy, “Destination Porsche” with distinctive environments to reflect each model on the floor, such as the 911, Cayman and Cayenne.

No word on the opening date but demolition has completely razed the old building. Keyes currently has a Porsche dealership at 21301 Ventura Blvd., Woodland Hills.

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818-377-2275
Vacation Home Owners Are Renting, Not Selling

Since the pandemic happened before Memorial Day, owners are capitalizing on the opportunity to lease them out. Lease-purchases are occurring more often too. A lease-purchase is where you lease a home for a few months to test it out and then commit to the purchase of the home.

Before, in times like these, vacation home owners would look to sell. Right now, they are capitalizing on the opportunity to lease them out. Lease-purchases are occurring more often too. If the pandemic happened in September or October, more vacation owners would be listing their second homes but since this happened before Memorial Day owners prefer to be landlords. Michael Bloom is with The Agency Calabasas. For a free market evaluation of your home or for any other real estate call (818) 207-2088 or email michael@michaelbloomhomes.com.

West Hills Neighborhood Council Meets July 2

The West Hills Neighborhood Council will hold their next virtual meeting on Thursday, July 2 at 7 pm. The agenda will be posted 72 hours before the meeting at westhillsnc.org. Login instructions will be on the agenda.

Woodland Hills Warner Center Council Meeting

The Woodland Hills Warner Center Neighborhood Council will hold a Public Safety and Transportation virtual meeting on Wednesday, July 1, at 6:30 pm. The agenda will be posted no later than 72 hours prior to the meeting at whcouncil.org. Every person wishing to address the Neighborhood Council must dial +1 669 900 6833, and enter Zoom Webinar ID No. (TBD for this meeting) and then press # to join the meeting. Instructions on how to sign up for public comment will be given to listeners at the start of the meeting. The public is requested to dial *9, when prompted by the presiding officer, to address the Board on any agenda item before the Board takes an action on an item. Zoom users may also login to Zoom, enter the meeting ID and listen via computer audio. You will use Zoom controls to “raise your hand” if requesting to speak.

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THEME: LAWYER LINGO

ACROSS
1. Requests
5. Pub dispenser
8. Feline sound
11. HGTV’s “_____ or Flop”
12. Ferdinan, e.g.
13. Like a ghost
14. *Pro _____ or in proportion
15. Miscellany
16. *Elsewhere
17. *Response to #51 Across?
19. Cher has one
20. Marine enchantress
21. Not tac nor toe
22. *Not underwear!
24. Habituate
25. Gives a hand
26. Of a city
27. Tarzan’s swing rope
28. Greek Bs
29. Don’t just stand there!
30. Complete failure
31. Peacock’s pride
32. *Reasons to sue
33. Quartet minus one
34. Greyish brown
35. *Lie made under oath
36. Common conjunction
37. Pre-Ionic
38. Homesteader’s measurement
39. Complete failure
40. Usually not allowed in court
41. “Stand and Deliver” singer
42. Sudden and brilliant success
43. Back of the neck
44. Spectacle venues
45. *To lure into a compromising act
46. Marcia’s jealous sister
47. *To annul or suspend
48. Mork from Ork
49. Old Russian autocrat
50. Anis-flavored aperitif
51. *Courtroom protest
52. Atom that lost an electron, pl.
53. Words from Wordsworth, pl.
54. Anisette, for short
55. European peak
56. Twins, e.g.
57. Was a passenger
58. Shirking work
59. Volcano in Sicily
60. All over again
61. “_____ se or _____ tem”
62. Bear’s hangout
63. Quiet attention grabber
64. 62. Bear’s hangout
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112. 14. *Pro _____ or in proportion
113. 13. Like a ghost
114. 12. Ferdinan, e.g.
115. 11. HGTV’s “_____ or Flop”
116. 8. Feline sound
117. 5. Pub dispenser
118. 1. Requests
119. Down

DOWNS
1. Big do
2. Eastern European
3. Toy with a tail
4. Thiny spread
5. Tutu fabric
6. Mork from Ork
7. Walk, as through mud
8. Cripple
9. Major European river
10. Ancient Chinese dynasty
11. Stock exchange, in Paris
12. Mollify
13. Anisette, for short
14. Often precedes through, to search
15. Cough syrup amt.
16. Greek Bs
17. Don’t just stand there!
18. Gives a hand
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Notice is hereby given pursuant to Sections 3701 and 3702 of the Civil Code of the state of California. The undersigned ELLEN CADALL AND BARBARA S. CANTER, BURR DUR CURLEY STREET 93420, will sell at public sale, on the 07/01/2020 at 10:00 AM, the following property: 2016 CHEVROLET CAMARO. VIN: 1G1FK1E37HD915007. The lien holder has the right to sell at the sale KING LICENSE, PO. Box 280817, North Hollywood, CA 91605.

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