Third Annual Day of Service Set for April 13

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Op Ed from Encino Property Owners Association
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Nighttrek: What to See in the April Sky

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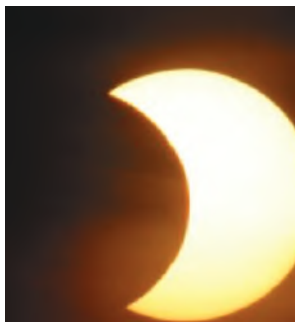

# ENCINO ENTERPRISE

Volume 5, Issue 93 | A Compendious Source of Information | April 5, 2024

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Brad Sherman to Host Town Hall April 11

Congressman Brad Sherman will hold a Telephone Town Hall on Thursday, April 11, from 7 to 8 pm. The Congressman will make opening remarks and then answer questions on any issues facing Congress. To participate call (855) 920-0548 any time during the Town Hall. RSVP at bradsherman.house.gov/townhall.

### Celebrate Earth Day April 13 at Tarzana Recreation Center

Join the community for the 11th Annual Earth Day Celebration on Saturday, April 13, from 10 am to 2 pm at the Tarzana Recreation Center (5655 Vanalden Ave.). There will be over 1,000 pieces of Earth art on displays, climb and bounce activities, face painting, arts and crafts, tree giveaways and see planting, food trucks and exhibits on how to live green and musical performances. This event is free and perfect for the whole family to learn about and celebrate Mother Earth!

### Free Spring Concert and Festival April 14 Sponsored by Raman

Councilmember Raman, in partnership with Valley Cultural Foundation, Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council and Department of Parks and Rec will be holding a free concert and festival on Sunday, April 14, from 4 to 8 pm. Tribute band The Beatles vs Stones will be performing at Van Nuys Sherman Oaks Park (14201 Huston St.) where there will also be a kids' area, games, food trucks, community booths and more! Ring in spring with the community!

### Sportsmen's Lodge Hotel to be Demolished for Apartments

The Los Angeles City Council approved plans on Wednesday for a mixed-use project at the current site of the Sportsmen's Lodge hotel in Studio City. Plans are to demolish the historic building for a 520-unit residential complex and mixed-used development. Proponents argued for the prospect of more affordable living, while opponents argued that the development would erase a piece of history. Of the 520 units, 78 will be used for low-income tenants. The plans also include 46,000 square feet of commercial space and a bike and pedestrian path along the LA River.

Dr. Chander Arora

Jenna Hauss

Tisha Janigian

Commander Morales

Tammy Scher

## Inspirational Women of the Valley Named

In one of the Valley's most important awards programs recognizing women leaders of the San Fernando Valley, the United Chambers of Commerce's (UCC) board of directors has announced its 2024 10th Annual Inspirational Women honorees.

The United Chambers Inspirational Women Awards annually recognizes women of outstanding achievement who have inspired others with their individual stories and accomplishments.

Established by the United Chambers and UCC member Vahid Khorsand in 2015, the committee seeks nominees who have not always been in the spotlight or who have not been previously acknowledged - women who could be described as low profile or behind the scenes workers who have overcome unique challenges in finding ways to serve their communities.

The Inspirational Women awards recognize women not only for their successes, but for how they have inspired others, served as mentors and, through their contributions, made the San Fernando Valley a better place. Honorees are selected from a wide array of industries including, but not limited to, business, social services, health care and medicine, education, community advocacy, arts, government and non-profit.

The 2024 nominees will be honored at a luncheon May 9 at the Hilton Woodland Hills. For tickets visit unitedchambers.org.

Dr. Arora, a distinguished professional with a wealth of experience spanning more than two decades in the healthcare industry, currently serves as the Program Director of Biotechnology at LA Mission College.

Beyond the classroom, Dr. Arora impacted global women's health initiatives by collaborating with the World Health Organization in Geneva. She has been involved in various international projects, showcasing her dedication with positive impact at a global scale. She has secured significant grants, including one from the Department of Labor. She pursued for advancements in the area within LACCD, establishing LA Mission College as trailblazer with the recent approval of a Bachelor of Science degree in Biomanufacturing.

Jenna Hauss has spent the past 18 years working with older adults, and is dedicated to the continued growth of enhancing community-based services to best meet the demands of the San Fernando Valley's most vulnerable populations, encouraging intergenerational connections to promote healthy aging and age-friendly communities.

Hauss has worked as a Social Worker and leader through a variety of clinical and community-based settings. In 2018, Hauss became the Director of Strategic Initiatives & Community Based Services at ONEgeneration, supporting the strategic vision and growth opportunities that led to expanding resources that address the valley's most pressing issues, including affordable housing, food insecurity, and access to mental health support. Her most recent transition to President and CEO in 2021 comes with an extensive history at ONEgeneration.

Tisha Janigian is the single mother of two teenage boys and the President and Founder of the nonprofit SHE IS HOPE LA whose mission is to envision a world where single mothers are universally empowered and societal and institutional barriers to their success are dismantled, creating an equitable landscape where single mothers and their families thrive. Their mission is to break the cycle of instability by empowering single mothers and their children, guiding their journey from survival to a state of enduring success. Janigian is also the Broker Owner of SHE IS HOPE Realty, where she and her team of agents make a difference by donating a percentage of every real estate transaction to SHE IS HOPE LA.

Commander Elaine Morales is a 36-year veteran of the Los Angeles Police Department. She grew up in Rosemead, California, began her law enforcement career as a young Police Explorer and joined the Los Angeles Police Department in 1988.

Commander Morales

*(continued to page 3)*

# CALENDAR

# Community Calendar

* Join the Sherman Oaks Encino Chamber of Commerce for their monthly "Lunch Break Live" on Thursday, April 11, from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. Members who register before April 10 will pay $30, non-members pay $45. RSVP at shermanoaksencinochamber.org.

* The Encino Neighborhood Council will be holding their Public Safety Committee meeting on Monday, April 8, at 6:30 pm. For more information, visit encinonc.org.

* ONEgeneration will be hosting a vaccine clinic on Sunday, April 7, from 9 am to 12 pm. Vaccines available include COVID, flu, shingles, pneumonia and RSV. Photo ID and health insurance is required for all (insurance is not mandatory for COVID, although it is requested). For an appointment or questions, call 818-738-9927.

* ARTIST CO-OP 7 will present "Touch of H'art," an exhibit showcasing the work of six local artists at Encino Terrace Lobby Gallery, on view now through September 28. Each artist offers their own distinctive vision and interpretation of the natural world through powerful imagery and evocative color, bringing together imagination and inspiration. On view are over 50 works by Susan Ahdoot, Selina Cheng, Beverly Engelberg, Cheryl Mann, Debbi Saunders and Joi T. Wilson. The show is curated by Helen Kim, M.A. Encino Terrace Lobby Gallery is located at 15821 Ventura Blvd and open from Monday to Friday, 7 am to 7 pm; Saturday, 9 am to 1 pm; closed Sundays.

* The San Fernando Valley Iris Society will hold their annual Sale and Show on Saturday, April 6, from 11 am to 5 pm at the Canoga Park Women's Club, 7401 Jordan Ave. Prices are $7 each, 3 for $20, as long as they last. Iris are stunningly beautiful, easy to grow here in the Valley, and are surprisingly drought tolerant. Come shop and check out the beautiful flower arrangements that will be judged. Questions? Call Marianne Davis at (310) 529-8871.

* The San Fernando Valley Audubon Society will hold a "Birdathon" at the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve on Sunday, April 7, at 8 am. Kris Ohelnkam will begin his walk at the Apollo 11 Model Aircraft Field parking lot and will visit nearby segments of the LA River, the Sepulveda Dam and end in the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Area. He estimates that birders will see approximately 60 species of local birds. For more information visit sfvaudubon.org.

* Citizens' Climate Lobby and ONEgeneration will be hosting an Electrification Faire on Sunday, April 14, from 8 am to 1 pm at the Farmer's Market (17400 Victory Blvd.). Learn how to get free money through local, state and federal programs!

* The Beatunes, a Beatles tribute band, will be performing once again at the Tarzana Community and Cultural Center on Friday, April 12, from 7 to 10 pm. Beverages and snacks will be available for purchase or guests are welcome to bring their own. Tickets are $25 each and can be purchased at mytarzana.org.

* Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council will be holding a dog adoption event at the Sepulveda Basin off-leash dog park on Sunday, April 14, from 10 am to 2 pm. Sponsored by a myriad of local dog companies, there will also be free microchipping while supplies last. The park is located at 17550 Victory Blvd., on the corner of Victory and White Oak.

* Looking to slow down and find some inner calm? The Encino Tarzana Library holds gentle Vinyasa yoga every Tuesday at 12 pm. Yoga alliance certified teacher Heather will help everyone link their breath to movement, and create poses in accessible and mindful ways. All levels are welcome and modifications can be made for every yogi. Bring your own mat. Please email jjones@lapl.org for questions regarding this program.

There are better ways to get acquainted.

As a local business, you're always looking to meet new contacts and find ways to grow your business. The Sherman Oaks/Encino Chamber of Commerce offers easy, fun and useful ways to make new connections and find new resources. Got a problem? Need some help?

We're here to get you what you need to succeed. Call us today at 818-906-1951 or email us at hello@shermanoaksencinochamber.org.

Learn what we can do for you.

SHERMAN OAKS/ ENCINO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

4933 Balboa Boulevard, Encino, CA 91316 818-906-1951 www.shermanoaksencinochamber.org

# From the Desk of Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel: Join Us for the Third Annual Valley Day of Service!

Friends, it is my pleasure to invite you to our Third Annual Valley Day of Service on Sunday, April 14th!

Last year, nearly 1,000 volunteers participated in this incredible day of giving back to our community!

This year, we're partnering with dozens of community groups and nonprofits to work on service projects across the San Fernando Valley.

Projects include cleaning our neighborhoods, packing outreach kits for our unhoused neighbors, supporting domestic violence survivors, donating blood, and so much more. These projects are filling up fast, so be sure to sign up ASAP!

For more information and to register, please visit www.bit.ly/VDS2024.

If you are interested in learning more, please call our West Valley Office at (818) 380-2460 or email Assemblymember.Gabriel@assembly.ca.gov.

We look forward to seeing you on April 14th!

Yours in Service,
Jesse Gabriel
Member of the California State Assembly, 46th District

# Inspirational Women of the Valley Cont'd

*(continued from page 1)*

rose through the ranks of police officer, sergeant, lieutenant, working various patrol, investigative, administrative and community assignments throughout the City. Commander Morales was promoted to the rank of Captain in 2016 and her assignments included Central Division, the largest and busiest command in the City. During the last seven years, she also assumed command at Security Services Division, West Traffic Division, North Hollywood Division and Foothill Division. In 2023, she was promoted to Commander assigned to Operations-Valley Bureau, which has a population of roughly 1.8 million people and encompasses 226.47 square miles.

Tammy Scher first became involved in educational volunteering as the PTA Vice President when her daughter, Brooke, was in kindergarten.

In 2005, Scher helped create and form CHAMPS, an arts centered Charter High School in Van Nuys. Scher is currently the Kiwanis key club advisor to CHAMPS and is also the board secretary of the Kiwanis Club of Entertainment Industry Group, Los Angeles.

In 2018, Scher was elected Chair of the Board of the Sherman Oaks Chamber of Commerce. Due to the financial restraints of the pandemic, the Chamber had to let go of its staff. Scher helped save the chamber by taking the responsibilities of acting CEO for over a year, where she advocated for local businesses and their daily struggles of the covid restrictions.

Scher champions for shelter adoptions, especially of senior dogs and owns a successful wholesale e-commerce gallery, ForgottenTreasurez.com.

For more info and complete bios on each nominee visit unitedchambers.org.

## English Channel

**By Rodger Sterling**

English Channel offers the best of the late editor Rodger Sterling's columns that ran continuously in the local papers since 1968.

* Did you hear that Boeing has a new company slogan? It's, "When one door closes, another one opens!"

* Fun fact from our waiter friend! Did you know that "tips" actually stands for something? That extra money we put on top of our bills breaks down to mean: "to insure prompt service."

* Arson? Oh, you mean crime brulee?

* Regular reader Steven Bercsi begs the astute question, "Before we work on artifical intelligence, why don't we do something about natural stupidity?"

* Sign seen at a local deli that had us in stiches! "Cured Meats: A salami takes his first steps since the accident. A prosciutto learns to forgive."

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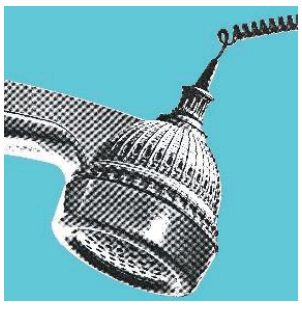
# Congressman Brad Sherman

## TELEPHONE TOWN HALL

## THURSDAY ✦ APRIL 11, 2024

## 7:00 – 8:00 pm



**A Telephone Town Hall operates like a large conference call, where you will hear Congressman Sherman's opening remarks and then ask questions on any issue facing Congress.**

**To Participate call (855) 920-0548 any time during the Town Hall. RSVP at: BradSherman.house.gov/TownHall**

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**PHONE 818.313.9545 FAX 818.302.1417**
**Email: EncinoEnterprise@gmail.com**
**22025 Ventura Blvd. #303 Woodland Hills CA 91364**
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# Op Ed from the President of Encino Property Owners Association: City Proposed Rezoning

**By Rob Glushon**

For the past two years, the Encino Property Owners Association (EPOA) has been working together with homeowner groups in Sherman Oaks, Studio City and other communities to fight against a City-proposed rezoning to allow high density, four to five story apartment buildings in single-family neighborhoods.

The good news is that the City Planning Department just released revised Housing Element maps that for the most part protect single-family neighborhoods in Encino from apartment projects.

Instead, as proposed by most homeowner groups, the revised maps reflect State-mandated new housing units to be built along commercial transit corridors.

Despite this victory, single-family neighborhoods in Encino and adjacent communities still face potential impacts from what are called "100% Affordable Projects" which have been approved in residential neighborhoods in Sherman Oaks and other areas under a Mayor's Directive known as "ED-1".

To her credit, Mayor Bass has supported our efforts to protect single-family zoned neighborhoods from out-of-scale apartment development. However, it is now up to the City Council to adopt an ordinance which needs to include appropriate "guidelines."

**Under State law, the Community Plan designation supersedes the zoning and thus many residents do not even know that their neighborhoods are at risk of future out-of-scale higher density multi-family housing.**

In Encino, there are some properties both north and south of Ventura Boulevard that are zoned single-family but are designated for multi-family residential development (i.e. apartments or condos) in the Community Plan. Under State law, the Community Plan designation supersedes the zoning and thus many residents do not even know that their neighborhoods are at risk of future out-of-scale higher density multi-family housing.

Residents in single-family zoned neighborhoods are already impacted by State laws allowing Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU) and a third dwelling unit known as a Jr. ADU on properties zoned for only one dwelling unit. In many instances, such additional density can occur without on-site parking.

For the last 60 years, EPOA has fought to protect and preserve the Encino community from out-of-scale development impacting single-family neighborhoods. Now, the fight continues in the face of pressure from State and City housing mandates. To be clear, we can provide for additional housing – including affordable housing – without destroying our single-family neighborhoods.

*Rob Glushon is President of the Encino Property Owners Association.*

# Digital Dangers and Protecting Your Business

**by Hormazd Dalal**

Progress never stops. As the world becomes increasingly digital with the rise of AI and machine learning, it is clear we live in an era where technology governs every aspect of our daily lives. Businesses from all industries need to become more vigilant as threats to their company's stability and security are more prevalent than ever. Today, business owners must contend with safeguarding their businesses against perilous technological challenges such as rising cybercrime, ransomware attacks, and data breaches.

The United States has seen a relentless surge in cybercrime incidents, including data breaches, ransomware attacks and phishing schemes. These tactics pose significant risks to businesses across all sectors. In a recent article in *USA Today*, an FBI report predicted the cost of cybercrime would reach a massive $9.5 trillion in 2024. Phishing was the most reported type of incident, but investment fraud was the costliest, resulting in $3.3 billion in losses.

As a business owner, it's imperative to remain vigilant and proactive. Cyberattacks result not only in immediate financial losses but also in reputational damage and a loss of customer trust.

Ransomware attacks have grown more frequent and sophisticated, targeting businesses, law firms, hospitals and local governments. These attacks can paralyze your operations and force you into a financial and emotional crisis as cybercriminals hold your data hostage for exorbitant ransoms.

In 2020, the U.S. experienced a record high in data breaches, with billions of sensitive records exposed. The healthcare, finance, and government sectors were prime targets. Data breaches not only result in financial losses but can also cripple an organization's credibility and trustworthiness.

Your business's data is a priceless asset that must be protected at all costs. Cyber threats loom large over businesses, safeguarding your data takes priority and data security is the key to success. There are many ways to protect your business and boost your cyber security.

Train your employees: Cyber-vigilant employees are your best protection against information security threats. Every employee should know proper email safety and usage, how to treat business information at the office and at home, and what to do if a cybersecurity breach occurs. Use regular communication and ongoing training to reinforce your cybersecurity policies.

Protect your endpoints: Firewalls can prevent and deter hackers and stop employees from browsing restricted websites. Install and update firewall systems on every company issued employee device: computer, smartphone, and networked device.

Hire a trusted IT solutions provider: Preventing, monitoring, and resolving data breaches is a necessary part of business operations. The peace of mind that comes with the knowledge that your business is protected by an expert in the field is invaluable. Having the right people keeping your business safe from ever-evolving cyber threats is the best solution.

Today's digital landscape requires protection from ongoing cyber threats. It is no longer an option but a necessity. Cyber security is the key to success. For your business to thrive, protecting your data is of the utmost importance.

*Dalal is the CEO of Castellan, Inc, a trusted managed IT solutions provider. He can be reached at 818-789-0088 or hormazd@castellan.net. Visit castellan.net for more info.*

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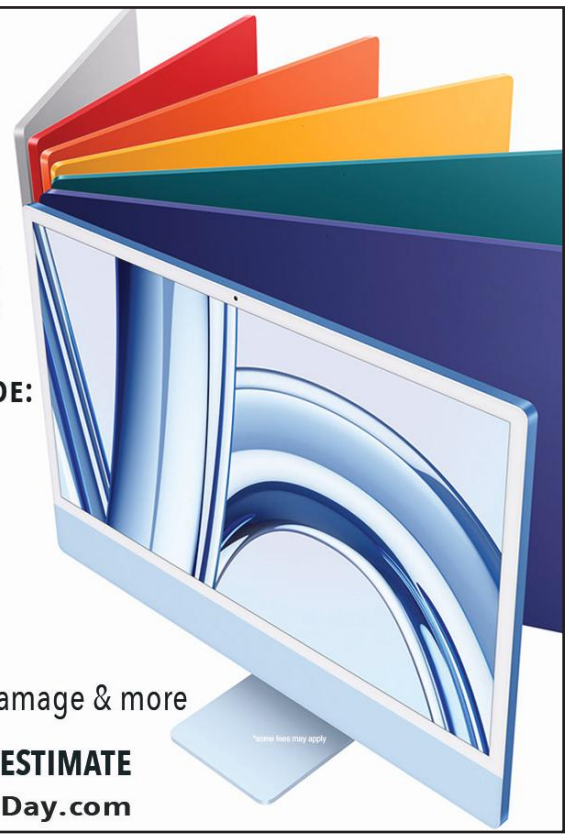

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HEALTH

# show me the SAVINGS!

*Are you wasting money on your* ***Medicare supplement plan?*** *If you are on a Plan F, I, or J you probably are.*

| MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT RATES | |
|---|---|
| AGE | PLAN G |
| 65*** | 133.00*** |
| 66 | 165.00 |
| 67 | 176.00 |
| 68 | 178.36* |
| 69 | 179.64* |
| 70 | 182.86* |
| 71 | 189.38* |
| 72 | 195.91* |
| 73 | 202.44* |
| 74 | 208.96* |
| 75 | 218.70* |
| 76** | 229.32* |
| 77** | 237.38* |
| 78** | 245.88* |
| 79** | 254.61* |
| 80** | 264.32* |
| 81** | 274.97* |
| 82** | 286.25* |
| 83** | 298.21* |
| 84** | 310.86* |
| 85** | 323.95* |
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**Plan G** is the Medicare supplement plan we are recommending for our new and existing clients. Since January 1, 2020, Plan G has been the **richest plan** that those new to Medicare can enroll in. Because of this, we are systematically moving all of our clients to Plan G.

Carriers are competing for this plan. **The ONLY difference between Plan F and Plan G is that Plan G has a once-a-year deductible.** In 2024, that deductible is $240. All other Medicare benefits are **identical**, and **the network of providers is identical**.

We are regularly saving people **$1000 or more** (net after the deductible) per year. And, we expect that savings to widen.

## It's Time to Shop!

The California **"birthday rule"** guarantees you the right to change your Medicare supplement plan to any other carriers' same or lesser plan **within 60 days of your birthday**. You can change without answering health history questions.

*L.A. County rate changes through 6/1/24. (Compilation of rates from 10 carriers) Rates subject to change. "F" Plans are only available to those eligible for Medicare prior to 1/1/2020. We do not offer every plan available in your area. Any information we provide is limited to those plans we do offer in your area. Please contact Medicare.gov or 1-800-MEDICARE to get information on all of your options. 5-10% couples discount available on some plans.*
**These rates are available if you reside with someone over the age of 18.*
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HEALTH

# Jay Leno to Honor Fire and Police Saturday at Grateful Hearts

The West Valley Warner Center Chamber of Commerce Community Benefit Foundation's fundraiser "Grateful Hearts" will be held at Warner Park (5800 Topanga Canyon Boulevard) this Saturday April 6, from 9 am to 4 pm. It promises to be a fun-filled day with activities for the whole family!

There will be celebrity and first responder (hero) sightings all day. Comedian and car enthusiast Jay Leno will join the festivities and promises to "bring some cool stuff" to the car show at the park. A tour of Jay Leno's Garage will also be

NBC Universal/ Walker Dalton

auctioned at the live auction.

There will be a firefighters barbecue, LAPD officers serving tacos, LAPD and LAFD vehicles and demonstrations, LA Rams - Rampage and Cheer appearances, a Disaster Preparedness Fair, Play LA, Book Mobile, Heroes Read to the Kiddos, three bands including The Action Figures amd many great activities throughout the event.

Grateful Hearts is a fundraiser for local first responders - LAFD Battalion 17 and LAPD West Valley and Topanga Stations. Funds generated from this community event help provide essential items for firefighters and officers which are not covered by LA City budgets.

For more information and to bid at the silent auction visit woodlandhillscc.net.

# West Hills Hospital Renamed UCLA West Valley Medical Center

As *Valley News Group* was the first to report in our January 25 issue, UCLA Health has acquired West Hills Hospital and Medical Center and related assets from HCA Healthcare. The transaction, which was finalized on March 28, will help address hospital inpatient capacity needs, allowing UCLA Health to provide world-class care to more patients across the region. The hospital has been renamed UCLA West Valley Medical Center.

"UCLA Health is focused on enhancing timely and equitable access to health care throughout greater Los Angeles, and this acquisition is an important milestone in our ongoing efforts," said Johnese Spisso, president of UCLA Health and CEO of the UCLA Hospital System. "We are pleased to welcome West Hills staff members as UCLA Health employees as we work together to serve the community. I thank HCA Healthcare leaders for their efforts in completing this transaction with us."

UCLA Health's immediate priority during the ownership transition is ensuring continuity of high-quality care for patients and a smooth transition as the hospital's operations are integrated with UCLA Health.

UCLA Health has retained the vast majority of health care professionals and support staff previously employed by HCA Healthcare at West Hills.

The acquisition includes the 260-bed community hospital with seven operating rooms and a free-standing ambulatory surgery center, about 21 miles northwest of UCLA's main campus in Westwood. The hospital sits on a 14-acre site, providing future opportunities to expand care.

UCLA Health will develop a comprehensive, long-term plan to upgrade the UCLA West Valley Medical Center property and optimize use of the additional capacity.

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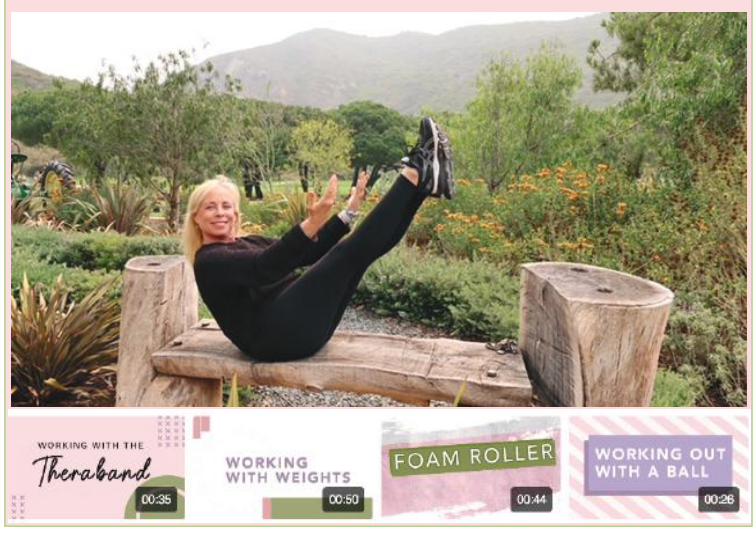


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Nonprofit Los Angeles Jewish Health, formerly Los Angeles Jewish Home, is committed to excellence in senior care for all.

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# Princess Kate's Diagnosis Shines a Light on Women's Cancers

British royal watchers notwithstanding, all obsessed with unfounded speculations, have been stunned with the recent announcement that Catherine, Princess of Wale, aka Kate Middleton, has cancer. The unexpected news is an all too familiar path for millions of women: vague symptoms, an office visit, tests, surgery and then a dreaded surprise finding of cancer.

It's timely for an all too important 'teaching moment' - certain women's cancers can present confusing symptoms but there are critically important clues that may signal an urgent need for a specialist's medical care. Ovarian cancer - usually hiding within the fallopian tubes - is just such a disease.

"Life can take any number of unexpected turns. Some joyous, some devastating and life changing. When my beloved daughter died at the age of 20 from ovarian cancer, it threw me into a world of loss and grief. Eventually I came to embrace a powerful life commitment," related Paulinda Schimmel Babbini.

Babbini grieved, grew stronger and in 2010 with the support of a small cadre of friends, founded a nonprofit 501c3, The Ovarian Cancer Circle/Inspired By Robin Babbini.

Robin was diagnosed at the age of 17 with advanced ovarian cancer. Shortly before she died, only 20 years old, Robin told her mother, "This must be happening for a reason."

Indeed, to create a lasting purpose out of this colossal loss, Babbini decided to do far more than cherish memories of her beloved daughter. Summoning new courage and learning new skills, she committed herself to networking, community outreach, educating and fundraising to do battle against ovarian cancer.

"We must teach women and girls of all ages! Please, KNOW these symptoms!" pleads Babbini. The symptoms are abdominal pressure, bloating, nausea, indigestion, feeling full but eating less, urinary frequency and constipation. It is essential to take note that if these symptoms persist over two to three weeks, go to a gynecologic oncologist.

The Circle's steadfast team of volunteers and donors commit to annual ambitious fundraising initiatives that support the esteemed UCLA G.O. Discovery Lab Gynecologic Oncology Cancer Research Lab. This past year the group passed the amazing $1 million milestone!

Recently The Circle presented a check for $75,000 to gynecologic oncologist, Dr. Sanaz Memarzadeh, leader of the G.O. Discovery Lab team.

Knowledge is critically important. One of the biggest keys to the battle against ovarian cancer is finding a life-saving early detection test which doesn't yet exist. Remember – the pap smear does NOT detect ovarian cancer! Reminds Babbini, "I firmly believe that if our family had known the signs and symptoms, Robin would be here telling her story herself."

The Circle and its devoted supporters and donors fight in loving memory of Robin, all loved ones who have lost their lives to this women's cancer, and on behalf of those very special survivors who have been successfully treated by remarkable doctors. The Circle's 14th annual fundraiser, "Teal There's A Cure" Luncheon & Boutique is Friday, May 3 at the Hilton Woodland Hills at 10:30 am honoring UCLA gynecologic oncologist, Dr.Sanaz Memarzadeh. To purchase tickets, donate or sponsor visit theovariancancercircle.org.

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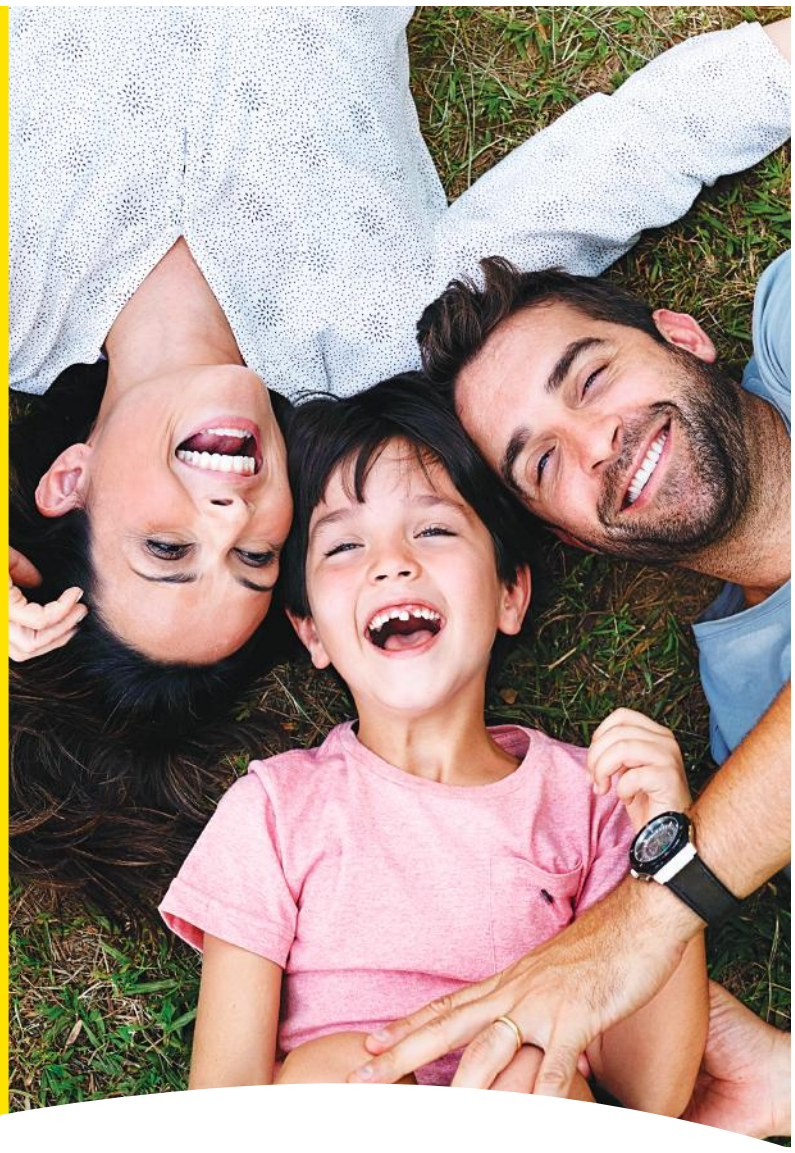

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ENTERTAINMENT

# Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire Isn't Breaking Any Molds, But Has Fun With the Franchise

**By Katie Sterling**

There are theme songs that nestle themselves into our brains and never leave. In this case, you need only to bump into Valley local Ray Parker Jr. for certain opening chords to subconsciously start playing in your head. It's an answer to a question that we all know and thanks to the fifth film recently released in the franchise, we can all once again shout the response to "Who ya gonna call…?"

*Ghostbusters* has followed suit with what many iconic films (i.e *Jurassic Park, Scream*) have done by producing set "chapters" in the narrative's universe to not only maintain dedicated fans, but recruit new ones as well. The *Jurassic Park* trio of films was followed by the *Jurassic World* trio of films, while *Scream* introduced the idea of a "requel," a sort of remake/sequel to a series' original film. All of these films utilize similar narratives while incorporating a fresh batch of actors and pepper in enough nods to the original franchise to appease dedicated fans in acknowledging that we wouldn't be here now, if it weren't for what came before.

*Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire* is no different in that audiences are now getting the second film of what could be considered the second "chapter" of the *Ghostbusters* franchise. (We're going to ignore *Ghostbusters* 2016 for now, given that the female forward remake seems to have been a one and done offset.)

In the latest iteration, the Spengler family have moved to New York City after their antics in *Ghostbusters: Afterlife* and the realization that their estranged grandfather was a key player in the original Ghostbuster group. (While not completely necessary, I highly recommend watching *Afterlife* before *Frozen Empire*.) Having now adopted the responsibilities that this knowledge imparts, the family has moved back into the infamous firehouse and have become well-known city-wide for their new business venture. Yet, when the discovery of an ancient artifact that seems immune to all ghostbusting tactics unleashes an evil force throughout the city, this rag tag team is faced with their biggest task yet.

Thanks to another tactic utilized by these franchises, familiar faces join new ones and the combined knowledge of past and present are used to well, save the world. While diehard fans will no doubt be gleeful to see some original *Ghostbusters* make their return, the cast of this newest chapter is strong enough to hold their own and frankly, don't quite need any of their spotlight stolen. The Spegler family is, dare I say, perfectly cast and the foils between each character only strengthen the dynamic as a whole. As for the supporting characters, for which there are far more in this sequel, Patton Oswalt's quirky demeanor fits seamlessly into the narrative and Kumail Nanjiani is the ideal comic relief, truly stealing every scene he is in.

Recent reviews have not been overall kind to this film, but when you've gotten to the point of producing the fifth or sixth iteration of a franchise, you've got to stop getting your protons in a twist!

*Ghostbusters* is a film intended to be FUN and really, what idiot is going to argue about a film that incorporates a junk food-eating blob and a myriad of mini marshmallow men?! *Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire* and fellow franchises are designed to entertain dedicated audiences who, despite some bumpy spots along the road, are still showing up for their favorite characters and beloved universes. At the end of the day, they're not there to break molds, they're there to bust ghosts!

*Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire* is now playing in theatres.

# ONEgeneration to Host Food & Wine Fest

ONEgeneration is hosting their first annual Encino Food & Wine Festival on Saturday, April 20, at 1 pm!

Come out with your family and friends and enjoy endless samples of local wine, beer and food from vendors in the community. The event is going to be held at the Encino Farmer's Market location on the grass field, from 1 pm to 4 pm for all regular ticket holders (VIP hour for sponsors from noon to 1 pm).

All attendees will receive a custom Encino Food & Wine Festival glass and plate to use at the event and to take home and enjoy. Along with food, there will be music and dancing!

Tickets start at $125 and proceeds support ONEgeneration, a local nonprofit serving older adults and offering a variety of community programs and services.

Must be over 21 to attend and ID will be required. No children or pets allowed. Parking is free and available next to the event.

There will be a boutique area of local artists and vendors as well as a silent auction. For more information on sponsors, wine and food vendors and tickets visit the event website at encinofoodwinefestival.org.


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# ENTERTAINMENT

## Sip this Spring in Support of Wildlife Conservation

Given the sustained success of the now-legendary late-summer event Brew at the L.A. Zoo, the Greater Los Angeles Zoo Association (GLAZA) proudly presents Sip & Stroll at the L.A. Zoo, an exciting new adults-only tasting adventure on Saturday, April 13, from 6:30 to 10 pm.

Wander through the zoo's enchanting grounds and indulge in specialty cocktails, craft beers, and mocktails from over 40 beverage partners, along with nibbles from some of L.A.'s top food trucks (for an additional fee).

Enjoy live entertainment, including a live band, DJ sessions, a paint party, and more. In addition to entertainment, guests can enjoy animal viewings with special keeper talks, and a stroll through the LAIR (the reptile and amphibian house).

VIP ticket holders will have early entry into the event along with access to an exclusive lounge area with premium drinks and culinary delights. Tickets are $85 for standard admission, $75 for members, $175 for VIP and $165 for VIP as members.

Tickets for all events are on sale now, with special pricing available for GLAZA Members. For more info, visit lazoo.org/sipandstroll.

## Celebrate Butterbeer Season at the New Florean Fortescue's Ice-Cream Counter at Universal Studios Hollywood

For the month of April, Universal Studios Hollywood will be celebrating their first-ever Butterbeer season with traditional Wizarding World treats including Butterbeer beverages, fudge, potted cream and ice cream.

Florean Fortescue's, a new ice cream counter in Honeyduke's, will feature 10 decadent and savory soft serve ice cream flavors including Butterbeer, Banana, Chocolate, Mint, Orange, Vanilla, Toffee Nut, Granny Smith Apple, Pistachio and Toffee Apple. All flavors can be served in a waffle cone, a cup or a commerorative Florean Fortescue saucer.

Continuing the focus, there will also be Butterbeer fudge, potted cream, popsicles as well as cold, hot or frozen Butterbeer. For a limited time, guests can even get their Butterbeer in a collectible silver stein. With a flavor reminiscent of butterscotch and shortbread, every Harry Potter fan knows that no trip to Hogsmeade is complete without a Butterbeer treat!

*Above: Butterbeer potted cream, fudge and Florean Fortescue's ice cream.*

For more info, and tickets to Universal (including their upcoming 60th anniversary of the Studio Tram!) visit universalstudioshollywood.com

# Nighttrek: What to See in the April Sky

**By Neill Simmons**

The highlight of April is the total eclipse of the sun on Monday, April 8. Make sure you have the ISO certified eclipse glasses to view this event.

On that Monday morning at 10:06 am, the Moon will travel in front of the sun. The sun will be 50% covered at 11:22 am. After a few minutes the Moon will begin to recede and be completely gone from the sun at 12:22 p.m. In Southern California, this will be a partial eclipse.

The total eclipse starts its day in Mazatlan, Mexico and then travels up through Texas, Arkansas, across the states all the way to Pennsylvania and then to Montreal, Canada. The perfect path of totality is 115 miles wide. At the center line, the total eclipse time will be over four minutes in length.

One of the best places to see the eclipse in our area is at Woodland Hills Camera and Telescopes store at Topanga and Ventura. Farah Payan, the owner of the store, will set up a fabulous "Solar Telescope." It will be monitored by two knowledgeable astronomy specialists, Dallas and Simon, who will answer all of your questions and facilitate the eclipse viewing. This is a FREE event!

FUN FACT: When a solar eclipse happens, a lunar eclipse will happen two weeks before or two weeks after. We had our lunar eclipse on March 24.

On April 10, the bright planet Jupiter and the beautiful crescent Moon will be in the west just after sunset.

Comets frequently pass by Earth but many are too dim to spot. April 20, 21, and 22, a passing comet may be bright enough to see early in the evening in the west.

The Lyrid Meteor Shower is on the night of April 22. You might see an occasional meteor, but the Moon will be very bright so they will be hard to see.

The full Moon of April has many names all over the world. NIGHTTREK likes the name "Egg Moon." This title is often used in April due to the beginning of the nesting season for birds and waterfowl.

The Big Dipper is always easy to see in the north. However, in April, Ursa Major is awesome as its bowl is upright. Take note that in July, the bowl will be low to the horizon.

April is a great time to spot the Zodiac constellation "Leo the Lion." Look for a giant backward question mark in the south. It is easy to see. This sickle shape grabs our eyes, and at the bottom is a super bright star named Regulus. Leo is mentioned in many books in ancient Greece.

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Vandenberg SFB and Space X have been launching many rockets this year. In April, 11 rocket launches are planned to put Starlink satellites in orbit. Frequently, these launches are spectacular to witness, as the one launched on March 18, which lit up the sky. Space X's Starlink satellites are meant to carry large amounts of information to any point on Earth, even over the oceans and in extremely remote places.

Griffith Observatory is having a Star Party on Saturday the 13th from dusk to 10 pm. This is a free event!

*When not stargazing, Neill Simmons is a Wealth Advisor with LPL Financial in Woodland Hills. If you have any questions, he may be reached at (818) 936-2626 or neill.simmons@lpl.com.*

REAL ESTATE

# Native Spirit Lodge Now Offering Drum Circles and Sound Baths

Starting in April Native Spirit Lodge in Woodland Hills is now offering interactive group sessions of drum circles and sound baths.

Owner of the unique store, Greywolf, says that the drum circles are held every Saturday at 11 am. The free event is in a separate room set aside for that purpose with very comfortable chairs and 14 different types of drums and soundmakers.

"Drumming can relieve anxiety, frustration and worry and let you get back to your primal spirit and make you a stronger person," Greywolf told *Valley News Group*.

If you get hooked on drumming they also offer drums for sale. "We have the best prices in town," said Greywolf. "We can compete with Amazon because we buy direct."

Native Spirit Lodge also offers sound bath sessions. They have over 100 crystal bowls. Again there is no sitting on the floor on mats. Participants sit in comfortable reclining chairs for the sessions. "This can relieve the stress of living in Los Angeles," laughed Greywolf. "And this will align your chakras. Some people say the singing bowls offer a very healing and meditative experience."

*The large drum circle room, above, and ready for a singing bowl session, above left.*

The Singing Bowl sessions are offered Fridays at 12 noon, Saturdays at 4 pm and Sundays at noon. The intimate room only holds six people and is usually booked so Greywolf advises booking early. Sessions are $20 per person.

The large store offers a huge array of crystals, stones, bracelets, pendants, incense, books, sage and incense, salt lamps, tarot and oracle cards and more.

It is a definitive resource for Native American crafts, including dream catchers, pottery, wedding vases, beads, Kachina dolls, arrows, coup sticks, breast plates, chokers, rattles, and more. Greywolf says, "Most of our items have a story behind them."

For more information about Native Spirit Lodge, its retail offerings, drum or singing bowl sessions, visit nativespiritlodge.com or call Greywolf at (818) 703-7046.

Native Spirit Lodge is located at 22559 Ventura Blvd. at Sale Avenue. Store hours are Tuesday through Sunday, 11 am to 7 pm, closed Mondays. There is ample free parking behind the store.

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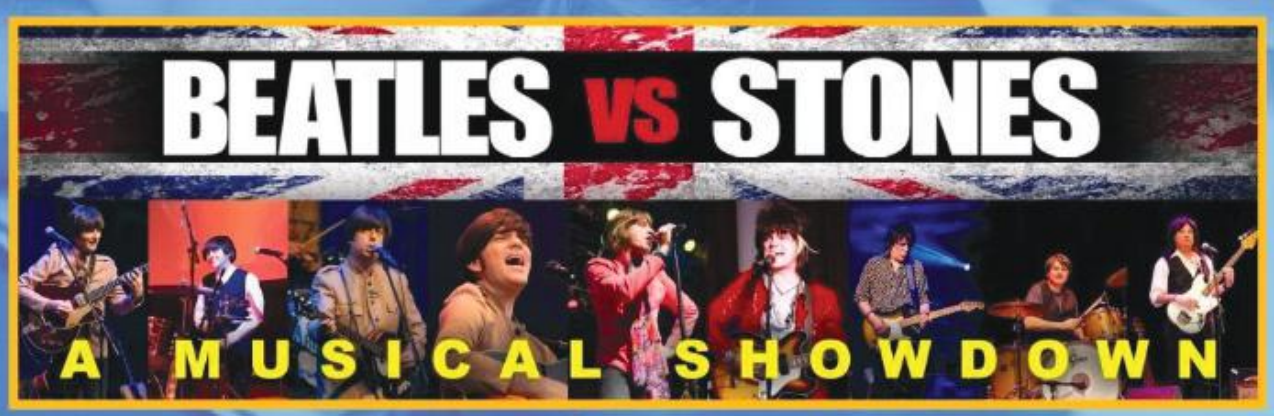


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