Local Clean Up Crew Lists 2024 Efforts

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# ENCINO ENTERPRISE

Volume 5, Issue 110 | A Compendious Source of Information | December 19, 2024


## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Trader Joe's to Open Three New Valley Locations

Monrovia-based grocer Trader Joe's recently announced that it will be opening three additional locations in the San Fernando Valley in 2025: Tarzana, Sherman Oaks and Nothridge. While the opening dates were not released, the locations will be 18700 Ventura Blvd. in Tarzana, 14140 Riverside Dr. in Sherman Oaks and 9224 Reseda Blvd. in Northridge. This announcement aligns with their previously-announced plans to open an additional eight Trader Joe's locations in Southern California.

### United is First Airline to Utilize AirTag Tracking for Luggage

'Tis the season for holiday travel and with that comes the risk of lost luggage. United Airlines has become the first commercial airline to utilize Apple's Find My Item location services. In the event that your luggage does not arrive, or appears lost, customers can now create a "Share Item Location" link to a delayed baggage report in the United app. Once shared, both the customer and United customer service agents will be able to track the luggage on an interactive map to more quickly find lost luggage and return it to the customer. For security, the shared location will be disabled as soon as the item is returned, disabled by the customer at any time and/or will automatically expire after seven days.

## Warner Park Hosts Festive Holiday Event

**By Jay Ross**

Woodland Hills' Warner Park was transformed into a winter wonderland last Saturday, hosting the annual Holiday Arts and Music Festival. This free community event, organized by the Valley Cultural Foundation (VCF), brought together families and friends to celebrate the holiday season and support local businesses.

This year's Holiday Arts and Music Festival was a delightful affair, offering a range of activities for all ages. Families enjoyed taking holiday photos with Santa, children were captivated by festive crafts and a magical snowfall that delighted young and old alike. Local vendors and artisans showcased their unique products, while the crowd indulged in affordable Costco hot dogs, drinks, and chips for just $5.

The talented students of the School of Rock in Woodland Hills provided live music and Dancetime by Stephanie students performed at the Nora Ross Bandshell, adding to the festive atmosphere. The VCF's commitment to enriching the cultural landscape of the San Fernando Valley was evident in the success of this year's Holiday Arts and Music Festival.

Check Valley Cultural Foundation's website, ValleyCultural.org for a schedule of upcoming events. Don't forget the upcoming Summer Concert Series at Warner Park when VCF will be celebrating 50 years of service to the community with music and festivities throughout summer 2025.

PHOTOS: JAY'SFSTOP

# CALENDAR

# Community Calendar

* This season, give the gift that is life-changing! The American Red Cross, in partnership with Westfield Fashion Square, will be holding a blood drive on Sunday, December 22, from 10 am to 4 pm. To book, visit redcrossblood.org.

* What better way to kick off a new year than by attending the Sherman Oaks Encino Chamber of Commerce's Health and Wellness Committee on Thursday, January 2, from 12 to 1 pm. Put your health and the health of the community first in 2025! The meeting will take place at ONEgeneration, 17400 Victory Blvd.

* San Fernando Valley Audubon Society is continuing to work with partners, the Friends of the Los Angeles River (FoLAR) and the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) on the ongoing habitat restoration efforts in the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve. This group will gather on Saturday, December 21, from 8 to 11 am to work and weed. If you would like to get involved and get your hands dirty, this is for you! Plus, there will be a guided Audubon walk after the work. For more info, and to sign up, visit sfvaudubon.org/event/sbwr-habitat-restoration.

* Looking for a bit of calm during this hectic holiday season? Join the Encino Tarzana Library Tuesdays at noon for gentle vinyasa yoga classes. Yoga Alliance Certified teacher, Heather, will led particiants through various poses in which modifications can be offered. All levels welcome. Please bring a mat.

* United Chambers of Commerce will hold their annual LAPD Captains Luncheon on Wednesday, January 15. LAPD Commanders, Area Captains and the new LAPD Chief Jim McDonell will be on hand to meet valley residents and executives. MC will be former LAPD Officer and current United Chambers Vice Chair Dennis P. Zine. The lunch will be held at CBS Studio's Carla's Cafe, 4024 Radford Avenue, at 11 am. Registration is required at unitedchambers.org. No walks ins will be admitted.

* 'Tis the season of giving, and ONEgeneration is looking for volunteers to give a homebound senior a special holiday. Volunteers will be given a profile of a senior who receives delivered meals from ONEgeneration, along with a list of items they may need such as hand soap or slippers and some possible "luxury" items such as chocolate or books. ONEgeneration social workers will deliver the gifts and a blank thank you note for the senior to return with their meals and send on to you. To volunteer contact volunteer@ONEgeneration.org.

* Join the West Valley Regional Library on Monday, December 23, at 10 am for a spirited and engaging discussion of the world's best short stories. All selections are from *The Ecco Anthology of Contemporary American Short Fiction* (HarperCollins, 2008), eds. Joyce Carol Oates and Christopher R. Beha. This meeting's selection is *The Brown Chest* by John Updike.

* Santa will visit on Sunday, December 22, from 10 am to 2 pm. The Saints of Service of Reseda Church of Christ will be holding a toy giveaway and event at 7806 Reseda Blvd. Join them for delicious holiday treats, music and singing, fellowship, games, food and more. Register at resedachurch.com or by calling (818) 342-4755.

* Hosting a New Year's Eve party? Have family in town and need to restock the fridge? Support local farmers and small businesses, and help the programs of ONEgeneration by shopping at the Encino Farmer's Market every Sunday, from 8 am to 1 pm. The market will run as usual, with no interruptions during the holidays. You can even find some last minute gifts and stocking stuffers! The Encino Farmer's Market is located at 17400 Victory Blvd.

# People in the News

The National Charity League, Inc. - San Fernando Valley Chapter, gathered at the Beverly Wilshire-Four Seasons Hotel for the 58th annual Charity Ball - "Make Your Own Kind of Music," presenting 10 inspiring debutantes who have completed their six-year core mother-daughter program of leadership development, community service, and cultural experiences.

On the arm of their fathers, the San Fernando Valley Chapter Debutantes include: **Miss Sarah Kathleen Bryant, Miss Faith Angelica Dalton, Miss Skyler Jean Farley, Miss Sadie Jane Freeman, Miss Adriana Beatrice Granato, Miss Gillian Mryl Harrison, Miss Peyton Reese Kaminsky, Miss Brooke Ryan Norris, Miss Sydney Leigh Soussan**, and **Miss Taylan Evanne Takac**. This year's event was led by Charity Ball Directors Ms. Alaine Balsamo and Mrs. Carrie Gilmore.

Founded on December 1, 1948, the San Fernando Valley Chapter has made an indelible mark on the community through its unwavering commitment to charitable giving, raising over $3.5 million and averaging over 12,000 hours of hands-on service annually to their philanthropy partners. These contributions have supported a wide range of initiatives, from education and healthcare to social services, ensuring that those in need receive the assistance they deserve.

The San Fernando Valley Chapter currently has over 224 active and 308 sustainer members who provide hands-on volunteer service and financial support for 10 philanthropic organizations in the community.

The membership drive for the 2025-2026 year begins January 16, 2025. For more information, please visit nationalcharityleague.org/chapter/san fernando valley.

Photo: Milken Family Foundation.

The 2024 Jewish Educator Award recipients were recently celebrated at an awards ceremony.

The Jewish Educator Awards honor exceptional teachers, administrators and other K-12 education professionals in the greater Los Angeles area who continue to positively impact BJE-affiliated day schools.

The initiative provides opportunities for public recognition and financial rewards honoring professionals' proven commitment to education.

The four individuals acknowleged include Rabbi Yossi Elefant, 2nd Grade Rebbe and Judaica Teacher, Middle School Science Teacher, Yeshiva Ketana of Los Angeles, Valley Village, Rebecca (Bec) Moray, Lead Kindergarten Teacher, Brawerman Elementary School of Wilshire Boulevard Temple – West Campus, Rabbi Ari Schwarzberg, 12th Grade Dean and Judaic Studies Teacher, Shalhevet High School, Los Angeles, and Einav Telem, 4th Grade Judaic Studies Teacher, Valley Beth Shalom Day School, Encino.

Above from left, **Dr. Gil Graff**, executive director of Builders of Jewish Education (BJE); **Lowell Milken,** founder of the Jewish Educator Awards; recipient **Rabbi Ari Schwarzberg,** recipient **Rabbi Yossi Elefant**, recipient **Einav Telem**, recipient **Rebecca (Bec) Moray;** and **Richard Sandler,** executive vice president of the Milken Family Foundation.

## 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.

• To lighten your holidays... some new takes on some old favorites!

- Later on we'll perspire, as we drink by the fire
- Jeff's nuts roasting on an open fire.

• How 'bout a religious joke. The preacher came to call on one of his delinquent members one day. The preacher said at his age he should be attending church and thinking of the hereafter. Replied the older man, "Oh, I do all the time. No matter where I am, in the garage, upstairs, in the yard...I ask myself, Now what am I here after?

• For the kiddies here are some timely Christmas jokes:

-What did the gingerbread man put on his bed? Ans> Cookie sheets!

-What did the salt say to the pepper? Ans> Season's greetings!

• Y'know what the top cancer fighting foods are: A> broccoli, tomatoes, spinach, oranges, garlic, apples, soybeans, carrots and green tea.

• Joanne Lewis comes up with this sage assessment. If you sleep walk, you do double duty. You get your exercise at the same time you get your sleep!

• As Jesse Jackson said (especially true at this season): Your children need your presence more than your presents!

• My wife says I never listen to her, or something like that.

• Thought for today: Please learn that even when you have pains, you don't have to be one.

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Santa for only $25

I've had the joy of bringing Christmas magic to kids since 2013. I've been the Santa at the Westlake Promenade Mall for the last two years. I've done private parties, and I've been the Santa at Hidden Hills Community Center. This year I will be doing pictures at a Home in Woodland Hills. It has a major display with snow, lights to Music and a big screen TV in front of the house. Come out bring the whole family and get your picture with Santa. I am looking forward to seeing you.

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Kathleen Sterling
**EDITOR**
Katie Sterling
**EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT**
Connie Hein
**BUSINESS EDITOR**
Miri Rossitto
**HEALTH EDITOR**
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**PHONE 818.313.9545 FAX 818.302.1417**
**Email: EncinoEnterprise@gmail.com**
**22025 Ventura Blvd. #303 Woodland Hills CA 91364**
**www.valleynewsgroup.com**
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# Word on the Street

**By Kathleen Sterling**

'Tis the holiday season and all through the house ... I was the only one stirring, contemplating my message for the week.

December is the month we celebrate both Christmas and Chanukah. Both are holidays that celebrate light - Jesus is heralded as the light of the world and Chanukah is the festival of lights, symbolized by candles lit each night for eight nights.

After a contentious year of political upheaval, acrimony and vitriol over the election, it is lovely to think of so many of us celebrating new beginnings. It would be wonderful if we could carry the joy of the season, and the message of two major religions at the holidays, into the new year - if we could put 2024 and its controversies behind us and start fresh.

I am reminded of the beautiful story of the Christmas truce in World War I. On the western front on Christmas Eve, French, British and Germans called an unofficial cease fire and ventured into each other's territory to exchange food and souvenirs. What a wonderful example of what the holidays are all about.

Christmas is a time of giving and Chanukah celebrates the oil that kept giving for eight days. Let us take these holidays as a chance to reflect on how we can give, not just to family and friends but to the community as well.

Giving doesn't have to be material. It can come from the heart. We can take the lesson from the Christmas truce and give the gift of forgiveness to someone who has wronged us, or the gift of time to someone we have neglected.

I always make New Year's resolutions, and start at this time of year to think of how I can be a better, more loving, more giving person. Many of my resolutions focus on more time with those I love, those I perhaps have not given enough time to in the previous year. I get caught up in work responsibilities, activities, chores, and sometimes don't give the time I should to those I care about. It is not that I don't love them, it's just been easy to have other priorities ahead of them, and for that I am sorry.

I have several people I need to forgive for real or perceived insults, and some friends I have to apologize to for hurting them. The end of the year is also the beginning of a new year, a new season, and a new chance to do better. May the spirit of Christmas and Chanukah be with you at this time, and I wish only love and happiness for you and yours in the coming year.

# Protecting Your Business and Customers from Google Search Scams

**by Miri Rossitto**

As scams targeting businesses and their customers grow more sophisticated, a troubling new trend is taking shape: fraudsters exploit Google search results to misdirect individuals seeking customer service assistance. For businesses, the implications of these scams go beyond financial harm—they threaten brand trust, customer relationships, and reputational integrity.

The scam works by infiltrating Google search results with counterfeit customer service numbers, mimicking those of legitimate companies. These numbers often appear prominently in search results, deceiving users who believe they are contacting a company's official support team.

Once connected, scammers pose as customer service representatives, extracting sensitive data such as passwords, payment information, and even remote access to devices. Businesses are then left to deal with the fallout: frustrated customers, financial fraud, and reputational damage.

For companies, these scams represent serious threats:

-Eroded Customer Trust: Victims of such fraud often blame the business they thought they were contacting, damaging relationships and reducing customer loyalty.

-Increased Operational Costs: Dealing with the aftermath of scams—handling customer complaints, investigating incidents, and restoring compromised accounts—can burden support teams and increase operational expenses.

-Reputational Risks: Negative publicity arising from these scams can tarnish a business's image, particularly if the scam is widespread or associated with lax security practices.

Businesses must recognize their role in mitigating the impact of these scams, even if they aren't directly at fault. Here are strategies to protect both your brand and your customers:

1. Strengthen Your Online Presence: Scammers often exploit gaps in your digital footprint. Make sure your contact information is accurate, consistent, and prominently displayed across all your official platforms, including your website's homepage and dedicated support pages, social media profiles, and business directory listings.

2. Leverage SEO to Drown Out Scams: Invest in search engine optimization (SEO) to ensure your official customer service numbers rank higher in search results. This includes creating clear, authoritative, and frequently updated content, making it harder for fraudulent pages to outrank your legitimate listings.

3. Educate Your Customers: Proactively inform your customers about potential scams. Post warnings on your website and social channels, advising customers to use verified contact info ONLY. Offer tips for identifying fake customer service representatives, such as how to spot red flags during a phone call or recognize phishing attempts.

4. Monitor Search Results: Regularly monitor Google search results for your business name and related keywords to identify potential fraudulent listings. Tools such as Google Alerts or third-party brand monitoring services can help prevent these scams.

5. Partner with Google to Report Fraud: Google is aware of this issue and is taking steps to remove fraudulent contact information. Actively report any scams targeting your business through Google's support channels to aid their detection and removal efforts.

Long-Term Solutions for Businesses include:

Implement Two-Factor Authentication (2FA): Encourage customers to use two-factor authentication for their accounts with your business. Even if scammers gain access to login credentials, 2FA adds an extra layer of protection against unauthorized access.

Invest in Cybersecurity Training: Equip your customer service and IT teams with the knowledge to recognize and respond to fraud attempts. This includes:

-Spotting fake customer complaints that may be phishing attempts.

-Assisting customers in safely recovering from fraud.

-Consider implementing solutions like Google's "Verified Calls" feature, which assures customers that incoming calls are from your business. Similarly, verified email programs can help customers differentiate genuine communications from phishing attempts.

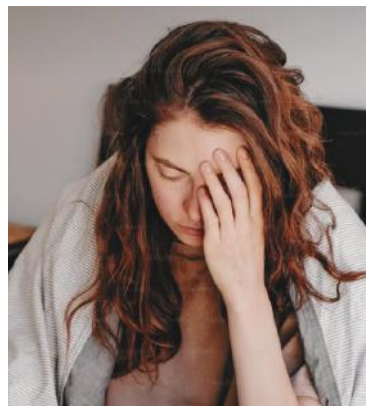
While Google continues to refine its systems to detect and eliminate fraudulent listings, the fight against scams will remain a shared responsibility between tech companies and businesses.

By taking proactive measures, businesses can safeguard their customers, reduce operational risks, and maintain the trust that underpins long-term success.

*Miri Rositto is CEO of Cowe Communications. Follow them on all social @CoweOfficial.*

# HEALTH

## Symptoms and Solutions for Seasonal Affective Disorder



Winter can be difficult on one's health between the cold, the uptick in sickness and the dark shortened days. For many, this change in the seasons can lead to a form of depression that has been appropriately shortened to SAD, seasonal affective disorder.

SAD, or winter depression, causes individuals to feel "off" around the same time each year. So what causes SAD, and what solutions can help combat it?

Perhaps the biggest component of SAD is the shorter, darker days of winter where sunlight is hard to come by. Lack of sunlight leads to lower serotonin levels which ultimately affect your mood. Due to the change in daytime hours, your body's internal clock is disrupted, which can lead to sleep deprivation, messed up melatonin levels and ultimately, depression.

While some people simply don't like the change in seasons, there are symptoms to highlight that can determine if you have SAD. Similar to depression, they include chronic fatigue, overwhelming feeling of sadness, trouble concentrating, sleeping more than usual and not finding joy in your usual activities. To hone in on if these symptoms are winter related, it's important to ask yourself if you often feel better once winter ends? Do you notice a stark change in yourself when the weather changes?

While seasonal, SAD is still a depression that needs to be identified and treated. The first step is to recognize that you may suffer from seasonal affective disorder and to schedule an appointment with your doctor. There is a broad range of mental health wellness tools that can be utilized to combat symptoms but, there are also a few simple steps to get out of your seasonal shell.

First and foremost, get as much extra sunlight as you can. Whether that means taking a lunchtime stroll, rearranging your work setup to allow more sun exposure or taking a few breaks a day to get outside for some fresh air and sunshine.

**Lack of sunlight leads to lower serotonin levels which ultimately affect your mood.**

Additionally, exercise is crucial in easing symptoms as endorphin release is beneficial for both the body and the brain. While it doesn't have to be strenuous, it is key to move your body for a little bit every day. A simple walk, yoga to relieve stress or anything that gets you up and moving.

Lastly, good sleep hygiene is imperative for your body to function appropriately in all aspects of your life, mentally and physically. Keep a routine in which you fall asleep and wake at approximately the same time every day. Limit caffeine and screen time before bed as both limit the brain from shutting down easily.

While those with SAD may find that napping aids with stress, napping too long can throw off your circadian rhythm. Aim for only 20 to 30 minutes and ideally halfway in the day so it's not too close to when you wake up or go to sleep for the day.

Talking with your doctor is the best starting point to determine which solutions may benefit you the most to combat your own sympyoms of SAD. If you find your symptoms are more severe, a doctor may be able to prescribe antidepressants, light therapy, Vitamin D supplements or even cognitive behavioral therapy.

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# Give the Gift of Pampering from Burke Williams

This year, give the one you love a gift of total pampering from Burke Williams.

The day spa is offering 25% off their holiday packages.

The "Merry Moments" package offers a 65-minute Pure Relaxation massage or spa-style facial with an enhancement of your choice. The package is offered at $180, gift card value $240.

The "Joyful Retreat" gets them a 65-minute Pure Relaxation Massage, a 50-minute spa-style facial, enhancement of choice and a one-day spa pass. Offered at $310 the gift card value is $410.

In the "Spa-liday Spirit" package your loved one will get a 95-minute Burke Williams massage, an 80-minute Nourishing or Radiance facial, a 20-minute spa bath and three-day spa pass. All for $515 with a gift card value of $685.

For the ultimate gift the "Enchanting Escape" offers a 95-minute Tranquility or Vitality massage, a 95-minute Regenerate Anti-Aging facial, an 80-minute Burke Williams massage, an 80-minute Nourishing or Radiance facial, enhancement of choice, 20-minute spa bath and three-day spa pass. All for $1,135 with a gift card value of $1,510.

Burke Williams is located at the Topanga Village, 6256 Topanga Canyon Blvd., and at The Sherman Oaks Galleria, 15301 Ventura Blvd.

For more information and to purchase packages visit burkewilliams.com.

HEALTH

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# How to Combat "Productivity Paralysis"

'Tis the season when the juggle to balance work, personal life, holiday festivities and more becomes almost too overwhelming to handle. How can it all get done? Can it all even get done in time? Between balancing attention and energy on all the tasks that need to be accomplished, many inevitably suffer from "productivity paralysis."

"Productivity paralysis" is essentially when an individual is unable to successfully complete any productive work. Each day that an individual suffers results in a larger gap between what is not being done and what needs to be accomplished. This vicious cycle increases stress leading to burn out, lack of sleep and further worries. During the holiday season, when fun festivities are more rampant, an increase in the sense of "productivity paralysis" occurs as the push and pull between work and play becomes harder to balance.

So how can you break out of this paralysis? The first step is to break it all down. Make a list of what needs to be done so that no task slips your mind in the process of trying to complete it all. Seeing a visual list can help you keep on track and prevent you from wasting time trying to figure out what to do next.

Prioritize what tasks you have written down in to what is most important first on that day, then that week, etc. Work your way down the list in terms of deadlines and importance. If there are small tasks that can be done quickly, tackle those to check a few items off your list so that you can put energy into more complex tasks while still knowing you were productive on a few other items.

Set a specific block of time to work and allow yourself breaks to avoid spiraling into a paralysis. Work on your dedicated to-do list for a period of time then switch to a completely different task before coming back to the list at another set period.

If you still find yourself having a creative block, get moving! Take a small walk, get fresh air outside and allow the blood to start flowing back into your body and your brain. These mini "re-sets" aim to kick start a new chapter in the day with revitalized energy.

Most importantly, give yourself grace. Everything may not be accomplished in time and that's ok. Take time to step away from the chaos, take some deep breaths and close your eyes to block out the mania.

Productivity has a wide spectrum and acknowledging that some days are more productive than others can help in the bigger picture.

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Scan Me!

# The Reel History of the Valley

By Martin M. Cooper

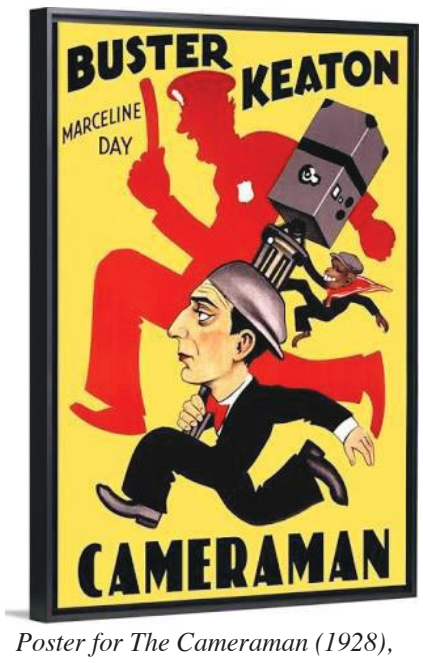
# No Special Effects. . .Just Buster Keaton

No one could be funny while keeping a straight face like Buster Keaton.

Along with Charlie Chaplin and Harold Lloyd, the trio had a near lock on visual screen comedy during the first half of the 20th century. And no one did more daring stunts in creating his movies – and had the broken bones to prove it – than Keaton.

As Jim Vorel wrote in *Paste Magazine*: "Where contemporaries such as Harold Lloyd and Charlie Chaplin were likewise iconic silent comedy stars of the era, known for their charm and on-screen pathos, neither of them dared to regularly take the kinds of risks and over-the-top spills Keaton was known for."

To truly appreciate Keaton's skills, watch some of the most dangerous – and creative stunts – he conceived: pastemagazine.com/movies/buster-keaton/buster-keaton-stunts-ranked-most-dangerous-films-broken-neck-stuntwork.




*Poster for The Cameraman (1928), Buster Keaton's first film for M-G-M. Considered one of his best, it was added to the National Film Registry in 2005.*

Joseph Frank Keaton, born in 1895, entered show business as part of his parents' vaudeville act at the age of four. Part of the Keaton's act was throwing young Buster around the stage with apparent abandon. But like Keaton's famous stunts in silent films, their act was carefully planned and choreographed to look more dangerous than they really were.

According to Keaton, he earned his nickname of Buster as a young child, when he fell down a staircase. The magician Harry Houdini picked up the child, dusted him off, and said, "That was a real buster your kid took!"

*Buster Keaton, honorary mayor of Woodland Hills, cuts the ribbon to open the new RB Furniture Store at 22223 Ventura Blvd., Woodland Hills in April 1964. With Keaton are Chamber executives and store management with Miss Woodland Hills, Linda Smith.*

His stunts, all of which he performed without a double, are the stuff of cinematic legend. Many of them were shot in the San Fernando Valley and included some of his most famous stunts.

In *Cops* (1922), the passing car stunt was filmed on Cahuenga Boulevard in Studio City. Keaton had to engineer a split-second move showing him running from the police and escaping by means of grabbing onto a passing car, which seems to yank him into the air as it accelerates.

Several scenes in *Three Ages* (1923) were filmed at the Valley's Iverson Ranch.

Much of *Seven Chances* (1925) was shot in Chatsworth and Burbank, and highlighted Keaton's athleticism. A large avalanche grows as Keaton's character runs alongside progressively larger boulders down an apparently endless slope. It culminates with Keaton taking refuge behind an embankment as the boulders whiz past, inches from his head.

In *Sherlock Jr.* (1924) the famous water tank waterspout scene was filmed with Keaton's car traveling east on Devonshire St. in Chatsworth.

The falling house from *Steamboat Bill Jr.* (1928) is probably Keaton's most iconic stunt. Unlike many of his other feats, which depended on his strength or athletic ability, this scene just required incredible timing…and standing in the right place without cringing: Keaton is standing in the middle of a cyclone when the entire façade of a house breaks away, collapsing on Keaton, who is saved because he's perfectly positioned so that he passes through a single attic window and emerges unscathed.

This was no set or camera trickery. Keaton used a real two-story house façade for the shot. If he had missed his mark by just a few inches, causing the window frame to come smashing down on his head, he would have been killed or sustained severe injuries.

Keaton and his silent films slowly faded from consciousness in the '30s and '40s, but he was working throughout that time. Beginning in the '50s, his star became ascendant again and he was popular on television, having had his own show, *The Buster Keaton Show*, in 1950 on KTTV. He also appeared on several television programs throughout the middle of the century.

Beginning in 1960, Keaton served as Honorary Mayor of Woodland Hills for several years. His last film appearance was *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (1966) which premiered seven months after his death from lung cancer.

During his lifetime, Keaton received an Honorary Academy Award in 1960 "for his unique talents which brought immortal comedies to the screen." He has two stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, one for motion pictures and the other for his television work.

His personal life included long bouts of alcoholism, a trio of marriages, and finally a tranquil life in his Woodland Hills home, a six-room house at 22612 Sylvan Street in Woodland Hills, which he purchased in June 1956.

The National Film Registry included seven of his films in its list of the most prestigious American motion pictures, making him one of motion pictures' most honored filmmakers.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences held a tribute to Keaton on the 100th anniversary of his birth in association with the American Film Institute and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. "The man with the stone face," as he had been dubbed, might even have smiled in appreciation.

*Martin Cooper, President of Cooper Communications, supervised public relations for the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences for 10 years; held executive positions with Disney and Universal Studios; and served as Chairman of the Board of the UCLA Film & Television Archive. He is a Fernando Award Honoree and Past Chairman of VICA. An award-winning author, he has written four books, two of them on the San Fernando Valley. He is currently researching his next book, the history of motion pictures in the Valley.*

*Buster Keaton manages to take on an entire city's police force in Cops.*

# ENTERTAINMENT

## Music By John Williams is a Must-See Doc For Music and Movie Lovers

**By Katie Sterling**

*Jurassic Park*. *Schindler's List*. *Star Wars*. *Jaws*. *Indiana Jones*. *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*.

What ties these films together is not only their great cinematic influence on millions of moviegoers, but a soundtrack that has become as iconic as the film itself. That's all thanks to a man in a black turtleneck, John Williams. *Music by John Williams*, a documentary on Disney+, is not only a love letter to music scoring, but a nostalgic journey through the movies that have made such a cultural impact in our lives. It's a film that stresses the importance music plays in a narrative and how notes (sometimes even just two iconic ones) can elevate the watching experience.

Directed by Laurent Bouzereau, the documentary chronicles Williams' trajectory into the film business from his humble beginnings in a musically-inclined family to his stint in the jazz world and beyond. Thanks to an unexpected opportunity to score a short while serving in the Air Force, Williams wrote his first original score and well, the rest is history. Fast forward decades later and Williams is perhaps the most decorated, and most famous, modern composer. The breadth of influence he has had, and continues to have, has forever changed the music industry. Even one of LA's greatest conductors, Gustavo Dudamel, credits the *Jurassic Park* theme for influencing his desire to become a composer!

Amongst a multitude of nominations, Williams has won 26 Grammys, five Academy Awards, seven BAFTA Awards, three Emmys and four Golden Globes. However, in watching the documentary, you can't help but feel that while Williams is certainly proud of his work, he doesn't hold the reverence to them that his fans do. Rather, he's just a man at a piano, completing a task that has been placed before him and letting the music notes fall where they may. It's a passion and it's a job for him, but he never sits down feeling as if another iconic soundtrack has been crafted. As J.J. Abrams puts it in the documentary, "Any one of his scores would be any other composer's accomplishment of a lifetime." But, for Williams, it's just another opportunity to put pen to paper in the hopes of adding a much-needed layer to the movie-going experience.

**It's a film that stresses the importance music plays in a narrative and how notes (sometimes even just two iconic ones) can elevate the watching experience.**

One also can't summarize Williams' career without emphasizing his partnership with Steven Spielberg with whom he has collaborated with on 29 movies. In recent decades the two have become synonymous with each other and the documentary perfectly captures not only their working relationship, but the complete trust they have in each other to create a cohesive vision.

One aspect that both Williams and Spielberg credit to crafting a truly influential score is the use of a live orchestra to ensure the right notes, tone and atmosphere are accomplished. Williams may be old school in his methods, but his success in these practices clearly speaks volumes.

*Music by John Williams* is a beautiful showcase of the long list of accomplishments that Williams has brought to the world of music. The manner in which he describes notes and the ways they can be strung together illustrate how methodically, aesthetically and emotionally he thinks each piece through. Not only will lovers of music adore this documentary, but moviegoers will be eager to rewatch many of the movies discussed throughout.

*Music by John Williams* hits every note and like many of his scores, leaves you feeling truly inspired.

# Local Clean Up Crew Lists 2024 Accomplishments

The West Valley Warner Center Chamber of Commerce Community Benefit Foundation has had a busy year - cleaning up the west valley from graffiti and debris.

Head of the foundation, Sean McCarthy, has actually been doing graffiti abatement on his own since 1986 - working on the Balboa Bridge over the L.A. River, buildings facing the freeway, street mediams and more. He joined the Chamber's foundation and took it from working with education and brought a new focus with community clean ups, and it's grown from there to the point where every Saturday morning McCarthy and a crew get out on the street armed with paint, rollers, trash bags, weed whackers and more.

"We have a host of volunteers every week, but I'd like to give a special shout out to my regular crew - Howie Baron, Al Collins, Ted Cotter, Sandy Rosenholz, Diana Williams, Patrick Maharen, Steve Hawkman, Jon Mann, Larry Cohn, Woodland Hills Neighborhood Council members, including Karen and Dennis Dibiase, Steve Sommers, and Geoff Hobson, Reseda LA River Walkers and Watchers, and Tarzana Neighborhood Council members," McCarthy told *Valley News Group*.

He also wanted people to know that the graffiti they see isn't done by kids. It's usually from adult males. "The message I want to get across it that they think it's just paint. No - it's criminal. I'd like to see their artwork in the form of ads or something else, not spray paint. We see the same six to seven buildings that back up to the 101 Freeway get tagged on a regular basis. The owners are frustrated so they stop dealing with it. That's not the right approach."

The Foundation needs volunteers, but also money to purhcse more supplies, disposable rollers and more. The city does supply the paint, but only in three to four colors so they purchase additional paint.

"I'm out there every Saturday with the team, and often Sundays on my own, because I love the city," McCarthy explained. "I'm proud of our work, but it's something that is ongoing. It's not a one and done. We have to keep on top of it to discourage more vandalism."

To donate funds or supplies visit communitybenefitfoundation.com.

Below is a list of the team's 2024 accomplishments.

01/06 Woodland Hills NC cleanup on Vanowen and Canoga

01/13 Tarzana NC cleanup on Reseda at Ventura

02/03 Woodland Hills NC Ventura at Oakdale center divider

02/22 Reseda LA River Walkers and Watchers, LA River bike way, Tampa at LA River

03/05 Express Conference Members, cleanup at Variel and Victory.

03/07 Reseda Painting Amigo pedestrian bridge over the LA River

03/12 Woodland Hills Neighborhood Council count of missing trees in Warner Center

03/16 Reseda Painting Amigo pedestrian bridge over the LA River

03/18,23,4/08 Lake Balboa / Encino Balboa Bridge at the LA River graffiti painting

04/13 Woodland Hills NC center divider cleaning at Ventura and Oakdale

04/20 Lake Balboa / Encino Balboa Bridge at the LA River graffiti painting

04/28 Reseda LA River Walkers and Watchers, LA River bike way, Tampa at LA River

05/04 Woodland Hills NC Cleanup of west side of Platt south of Victory

05/11 Reseda at Corbin and the LA River painting

05/18 Reseda at Traders Pawn, Sherman Way and Reseda

05/30 Reseda LA River Walkers and Watchers, LA River bike way, Tampa at LA River

06/01 Woodland Hills NC, west side of Shoup north of Burbank

06/08 Tarzana, Graffiti remediation at 19641 Ventura

06/15 Lake Balboa, Balboa at the LA River graffiti remediation

06/22 Tarzana, Ventura at VanAlden, tree trimming and weed removal

06/29 Reseda LA River Walkers and Watchers bike way at Tampa and the LA River

07/06 Woodland Hills west side of Shoup north of Burbank weed and tree trimming

07/13 Reseda METRO Station tree trimming and cleanup at Reseda and Oxnard

07/20 Tarzana cleanup, from the south side of Ventura and Wilbur to VanAlden on ramp

07/27 Reseda LA River Walkers and Watchers bike way at Tampa and the LA River

08/03 Woodland Hills NC METRO Station cleanup at Victory and Winnetka

08/10 Woodland Hills Ventura and Corbin tree trimming and weed removal

08/17 Woodland Hills south side of Ventura east of Topanga Canyon trash and weeding

08/31 Reseda LA River Walkers and Watchers VanAlden pedestrian bridge cleanup

09/07 Woodland Hills NC METRO Station cleanup at Victory and Winnetka

09/14 Reseda METRO Station tree trimming and cleanup at Reseda and Oxnard

09/21 Tarzana south side of Ventura at Aura, graffiti remediation

09/28 Reseda LA River Walkers and Watchers bike way at Tampa and the LA River

10/05 Woodland Hills NC cleanup of 6036 Variel

10/12 Tarzana back of 19641 Ventura graffiti remediation

10/19 Tarzana, south side of Ventura at Aura graffiti remediation

10/26 Reseda LA River Walkers and Watchers pedestrian bridge at Amigo and the LA River.

11/02 Woodland Hills NC cleanup of Ventura at Alhama tree trimming and trash removal

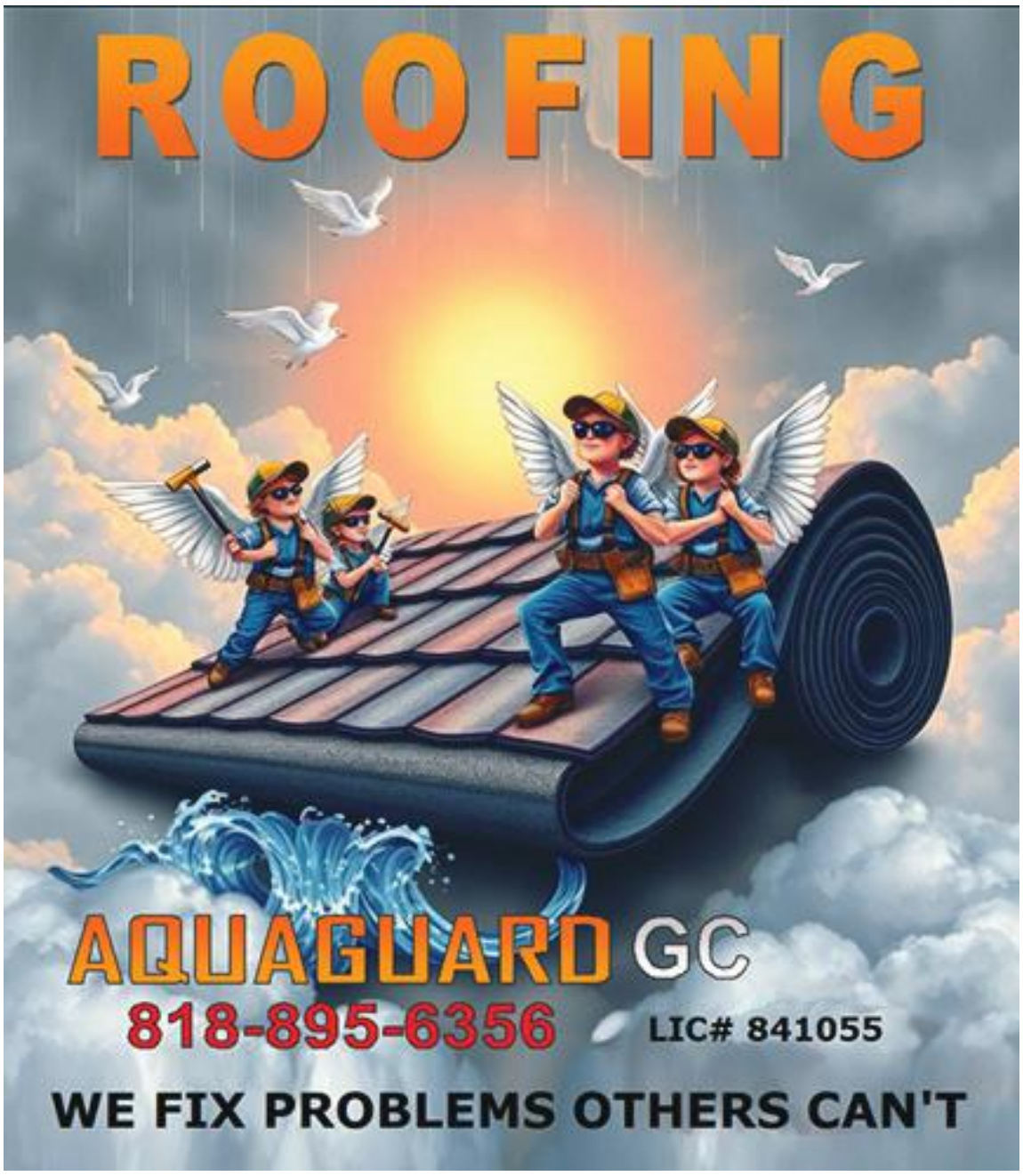
11/09 Tarzana, south side of Ventura at Aura graffiti remediation

11/16 Winnetka NC cleanup of Winnetka at Parthenia

11/23 Lake Balboa, Balboa Bridge at the LA River Graffiti remediation

11/30 Reseda LA River Walkers and Watchers bike way at Tampa and the LA River

12/02 Woodland Hills NC cleanup of NW corner of Topanga and Mulholland Hwy.



# JOY FOR ALL

THE SORAYA

SAT DEC 7 3PM
SUN DEC 8 3PM

## Nochebuena: A Christmas Spectacular

Featuring Ballet Folklórico de Los Ángeles with Special Guest Camila Fernández

THU DEC 12 8PM

## Dorrance Dance: *The Nutcracker Suite*

Duke Ellington & Billy Strayhorn, arrangement
Pyotr Illyich Tchaikovsky, composer

SAT DEC 14 3PM

The World Famous
## Glenn Miller Orchestra
*In the Holiday Mood*

SUN DEC 15 2PM 7PM

## Lea Salonga
*At Christmas*

THU DEC 19 8PM

## SWEET HONEY IN THE ROCK®
50th Anniversary Tour
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