

IN THIS ISSUE

Beverly Hills Residents Celebrate Berry Gordy Square Dedication 5



The Scene: JLo at AllBright 6



Spectrum News 1's Giselle Fernandez Named Journalist of the Year 7



Courier Calendar 3

News 4

The Scene 6

Real Estate 8

Arts & Entertainment 10

Courier Connoisseur 12

Health and Wellness 14

Birthdays 18

Fun & Games 21

Community Voices 27

Classifieds 22
Announcements
Real Estate
Rentals
Sales
and more

Beverly Hills Holiday Metro Update

BY SANDRA SIMS

Just in time for the busy holiday shopping season in Beverly Hills, residents and businesses will have some reprieve from the Metro construction during the moratorium prohibiting work on the Purple Line Extension Wilshire/Rodeo site. Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (L.A. Metro) officials confirmed with the Courier that the holiday moratorium, which began on Thanksgiving day, will last through Jan. 1. Work is anticipated to resume on Jan. 2. Piling operations are on hold through New Year's Day on Wilshire Boulevard between Crescent Drive and Beverly Drive, K-rail barriers are removed, and Wilshire Boulevard is restored to three lanes in each direction.

Piling will begin again on Wilshire Boulevard in early January, and K-rail barriers will be put back in place 24 hours a day through the anticipated July 2020 completion date of that particular project.

Two lanes of traffic will remain open in each direction on Wilshire Boulevard during piling operations.

In addition, a four-way traffic signal is now installed at Clifton Way and Crescent Drive to mitigate anticipated traffic issues caused by the N. Canon Drive cul-de-sac. The cul-de-sac at the intersection of N. Canon Drive and Wilshire Boulevard was established to lessen traffic noise during major construction.

In early January, sidewalks will be reconstructed for wheelchair accessible ramps at the Clifton Way and Crescent Drive intersection. L.A. Metro reports that this work will impact traffic lanes, sidewalks, crosswalks, and parking meters at the intersection.

Wilshire Boulevard and La Cienega Boulevard Construction

L.A. Metro reports that construction continues near Wilshire Boulevard and La Cienega Boulevard. The following closures

are scheduled to be in effect:

- North Gale Drive will close from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. on weekdays.
- Wilshire Boulevard will be reduced to two lanes in both directions from La Cienega Boulevard to San Vicente Boulevard from 3 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Wednesday through Saturday.
- Intermittent short-term closures and left turn restrictions will be in effect on Wilshire Boulevard and La Cienega Boulevard overnight and on weekdays.
- Westbound Wilshire Boulevard will be reduced to two lanes from Gale Drive to Le Doux Road from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Dec. 4.
- Left turns will be restricted at the Wilshire Boulevard and La Cienega Boulevard intersection from 8 p.m. to 7 a.m. on weekdays.

For additional information regarding construction and upcoming meetings, visit: www.beverlyhills.org/purpleline.

Jenny Rogers Named Director of Community Services

BY ANA FIGUEROA



Jenny Rogers

Photo by Clove Galilee and Quincy Stamper

Jenny Rogers has been named the new Beverly Hills Director of Community Services. She joins Beverly Hills from Mill Valley, where she served as the Director of Arts and Recreation since 2012. Rogers fills the role vacated by former Director Nancy Hunt-Coffey who is now Assistant City Manager.

As Director of Community Services, Rogers will oversee the Department's Administrative Support, Human Services, Library, and Recreation and Parks divisions. She will be responsible for developing and implementing programs to enhance community cultural, educational, leisure, and library services.

Those duties touch upon much of the day-to-day life of residents. For example, Rogers will direct the development of arts and cultural events; plan and direct, through staff, the activities, operation and

maintenance of the City's parks, streetscapes, urban forest and recreational facilities; oversee through staff the enforcement of rules and regulations needed to ensure park safety and cleanliness; provide administrative leadership and direction to library management staff in the development, planning and organization of library services, technology and facilities management and oversee the development of policies and guidelines for the City's human services efforts.

Rogers states she's up to the task. "Beverly Hills is such a special place and I am thrilled to be selected for this incredible opportunity," said Rogers. "As an artist myself, my passion for my work is personal. I look forward to working with the City Council, incredibly talented City staff, and the community to build upon the world-class legacy Beverly Hills has created with its deep commitment to arts and culture, superior facilities and exceptional programming."

Prior to her tenure in Mill Valley, Rogers worked for the City and County of San Francisco where she began her career providing human and social services at Boeddeker Park in the Tenderloin District. She later served the Cultural Arts Division (SFRPD) as Cultural Arts Supervisor. Most recently, she played an integral role in the development of the Marin County Arts and Culture Master Plan. Rogers graduated from Brown University Magna Cum Laude with a BA in Art and Semiotics and holds an MFA in Fine Arts from Pennsylvania State University. She commences Jan. 6.

Residents Voice Concern for a Complete Streets Plan that Prioritizes Bike Lanes

BY LAURA COLEMAN

Scores of people packed the Municipal Gallery at City Hall on Dec. 3 to discuss Beverly Hills' effort to make people less reliant on cars via the Complete Streets Plan. The plan, which has been in development for nearly two years, is intended to make Beverly Hills a more mobility friendly city by taking a "complete streets" approach to reducing traffic in tandem with significantly augmenting bike lanes.

"It's just a draft plan," emphasized Traffic and Parking Commissioner Nooshin Meshakty, who together with her fellow four commissioners on the Traffic and Parking Commission (TPC) presided over Tuesday's special meeting. "As a concerned city, we should consider, how do we want to deliver this city to the next generation?"

More than half of the 16 people called for public comment after Director of Community Development Susan Healy Keene offered a high-level view of the plan were residents concerned with how the current 170-page plan appeared to prioritize bike lanes at the expense of resident needs. (Complete Streets continues on page 18)

"The Nutcracker" returns for its 47th Annual Holiday Season. This year three students from Beverly Hills Unified School District are part of the ballet ensemble that pays tribute to the original George Balanchine's classic. Beverly Vista Middle School students Jenne Shim (7th Grade) and Isabella Sullivan (8th grade) along with Hawthorne Elementary student Elle Shim (5th Grade) are among the dancers for the Westside Ballet of Santa Monica. These pre-professional (students in training) dancers will share the Broad Stage with seven professional guest artists from Nov. 30 through Dec. 8.

The Beverly Hills student dancers shared their excitement with the Courier, "I love performing because I get to do what I love, and I don't think about anything else while I'm dancing," said Elle Shim. "I enjoy performing on stage with all my friends," added her sister Jenne Shim.

"It takes a tremendous amount of dedication for young dancers to participate in our 'Nutcracker' performances. These three dancers, and all their fellow dancers, have had to commit every weekend since September to preparing for the coveted roles they dance. It is much more than a hobby or recital, it's 47 years of an elite legacy they



(From Left): Stella Grynberg (corps de ballet), Maya Zeevi (Snow Queen), Naya Galambos (Snow Fairy), Gregory Maddela (Prince), Wynter Ross (Clara), Daisy Kohner (corps), Madeline Caldwell (corps), Leslie Parada (corps). Photo courtesy of Todd Lechtick

step into -- it's very special," said Martine Harley, Artistic Director, Westside School of Ballet & Westside Ballet of Santa Monica.

The Westside School of Ballet was founded in 1967, and the Westside Ballet of Santa Monica is the nonprofit performing-division for the pre-professional company created in 1973 by Yvonne Mounsey (New York City Ballet) and Rosemary Valaire (Royal Ballet). Mounsey danced professionally with George Balanchine, as one of the

original prima ballerinas for his New York City Ballet production.

"The Nutcracker" includes music from Tchaikovsky's score performed live by the Santa Monica College Symphony Orchestra, led by Maestro Elizabeth Stoyanovich. "This production is known as the most child-friendly production in the region," said Harley "Keeping our performances affordable provides the perfect opportunity to introduce ballet to children of all ages." ●

