

Culver Plans 9/11 Remembrance Sunday Event Scheduled At City Hall



Former Chamber of Commerce Chiefs at the Gala held recently celebrating the 90th anniversary. From left: Dan Cohen, Richard Hibbs, Cy Pierce, Michael Fate, Alan Goldman, Mark Olsen, Angela Gibson, Jan Harman, Jeff Hass, Steve Hadland, David Oliver and Russ Jonyer. Westfield Culver City and Sony Pictures Entertainment cosponsored the event held at Westfield.

Culver To Participate In National Preparedness Month

In September the United States will mark the 10-year anniversary of 9/11. The City of Culver City has committed to participate in National Preparedness Month, an event founded after 9/11 to increase preparedness in the U.S.

This event, now in its eighth year, is a nationwide, month-long effort hosted by the Ready Campaign and Citizen Corps, encouraging households, businesses and communities to prepare and plan for emergencies.

One of NPM's key messages is: being adequately prepared in the event an emergency enables you to be self-reliant for three days without utilities (including electricity and water service), access to a supermarket or local services, or maybe even without response from police, fire or rescue services. Preparing can start with three important steps:

1. Get an emergency supply kit; and
2. Make a plan for what to do in an emergency; and
3. Be informed about emergencies that could happen in your community and identify sources of information in your community that will be helpful before, during, and after an emergency.

Preparedness is a shared responsibility; it involves a whole community. This year's NPM focuses on turning awareness into action by encouraging all individuals and all communities nationwide to make an emergency preparedness plan. Preparedness information and events will be posted to www.ready.gov.

"I urge all residents and businesses to make putting together a disaster plan and kit a priority. I especially encourage families with young children to teach them where to go, what to expect and how to behave in the event of a disaster. Being prepared and practicing your plan will serve to minimize the fear and confusion that are often experienced when disaster strikes," said Culver City Mayor Micheál O'Leary.

Detailed checklists on emergency planning can be found at www.culvercity.org/emergencyprep. For more information, please feel free to contact the Culver City Fire Department at (310) 253-5900. For more information about the Ready Campaign and National Preparedness Month, visit www.ready.gov or call toll free: (800) BE-READY, (888) SE-LISTO, and TTY (800) 462-7585.

The City of Culver City will be honoring the losses experienced during the terrorist attacks that occurred on September 11, 2001. The Fire Department is coordinating with the Police Department a 9-11 Remembrance to be held on Sunday in the courtyard of the Culver City City Hall, 9770 Culver Blvd.

Members of the public are invited to attend. Parking is available at City Hall on Parking Level One. Below is the ceremony schedule:

- 6:30 a.m.**
Police and Fire Personnel will assemble
- 6:59 a.m.**
Time of the South Tower collapse, bell rings
- 7:00 a.m.**
One minute of complete silence
- 7:01 a.m.**
Siren sounds
Brief musical tribute
Color Guard lowers flags to half-staff
- 7:20 a.m.**
Ceremony completed

A nationwide survey conducted by Society of Fire Protection Engineers (SFPE) reveals that only 7% of Americans feel safer from fire in high-rise buildings since the terrorist attacks that occurred on September 11, 2001.

"Because most people will always remember the images of the World Trade Center Towers collapsing, it's understandable only a small percentage of the population would feel safer in tall buildings," said SPFE Engineering Program Manager, Chris Jelenewicz. "However, since 9/11, fire protection engineers have increased their scrutiny of extreme events and have significantly improved the science

& technology that is needed to make high-rise buildings safer during emergencies."

Fire protection engineers analyze buildings from the standpoint of how fires start and grow, and how they affect people and property. They work closely with other professionals, including architects, state and local building officials, and local fire departments to ensure safer high-rise buildings.

"With respect to fire, tall buildings have unique risks," said Jelenewicz. "For example, fire department ladders cannot reach the upper floors of a high-rise building and it takes more time for people to evacuate during an emergency."

As part of the World Trade Center Towers collapse investigation in 2005, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), recommended including fire protection engineers in building design teams in order to prevent future devastation, especially with high rise buildings. The report also recommended significant changes to the way tall buildings are constructed to make them more resistant to fire and more easily evacuated during emergencies. Many of these recommendations resulted in changes to the model building and fire codes.

Some of the changes to the way tall buildings are designed and constructed that have occurred since 9/11 include:

- o Facilitating more efficient building evacuations
- o Improvements in the marking of exits

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Culver Schools Have Yard Sign Sale

Culver City Schools have a "We Support Culver City Schools" yard sign. The suggested donation is \$1 per day (that's \$30 a month for 10 months, \$300 a family), or with at least \$100 towards the Culver City Education Foundations (CCEF) "All For 1" campaign you will receive a "WE SUPPORT CULVER CITY SCHOOLS" yard Sign.

The campaign goal is to unite the community of Culver City in raising \$1 million to benefit all Culver City schools. In 2009, the voter-approved parcel tax of \$1.2 million per year made a huge difference in maintaining excellence in our award winning schools. Since then, however, unprecedented annual budget cuts from Sacramento have placed our schools in need again.

The money raised from our "ALL FOR 1" campaign will go towards maintaining extra programs and resources. It will be given to CCUSD for the 2012-2013 school year.

Please go to www.ccef90230.org and make your pledge now and to get more information what were raising funds for!



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A Good Old Fashion Orgy
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COMMENTARY

It's a Matter of Fairness

Scott Malsin, Vice Mayor
(Third of a three-part series)

Culver City is at a philosophical crossroads. We're faced with a serious question, and the way we answer it will say a lot about us. It is: should the City protect the well-being of its older workers by honoring its commitments to them? or not?

As I wrote in my first two articles in this series (available on this newspaper's website or at CulverCity2020.org), changes in the City's retiree health plan that go into effect on January 1st, 2012 are likely to force many valuable employees to retire before then. The impact on our community will take many forms, from slower emergency response times and less personal service to greater liability costs and higher turnover of employees.



Those are costs which a city whose reputation centers on its high level of service should avoid incurring. But this is not just about the services we enjoy; it's about the kind of community we are. There are many employees who will find themselves better off retiring than continuing to work. It makes no sense to force them out: they'll leave with their benefits plus we'll be paying their less-experienced replacements new benefits. We won't be saving money, we'll be spending more.

But there are many who can neither afford to retire nor to lose their benefits. Imagine yourself in their place.

You come to work here later in life in part because of the security your benefits will provide, benefits that had been offered and honored for decades. You've planned your retirement based on them. You have a modest pension and no margin of error. And then the rug gets pulled out from under you.

Since I began this public conversation, City workers have come up to me to say, "That's me you're talking about." Don't take my word for it, ask them for yourself. You don't have to go far. They work in your neighborhood; they may live on your street. Of course, this isn't just a local issue - we're seeing it played out across America. I don't know about you, but I don't like what I'm seeing. It's neither fair nor right to change the rules of the game when it's too late for someone to make up the ground they've lost. Culver City has a powerful sense of community. Our workers feel it and help sustain it. Shouldn't we treat them as we would wish to be treated? Shouldn't we do our best to honor the commitments we have made to them? I think so, most particularly in the case of our older workers.

This is a question that goes right to the heart of what our "small town" is all about. A 2011 nationwide survey by the non-profit Center for State and Local Government Excellence (www.slge.org) asked public agencies how they have modified their pension and health benefit programs to help meet their financial challenges. Less than one percent of the respondents indicated that they are implementing changes similar to those Culver City is putting in place.

If Culver City was on the brink; if we had no financial reserves; if we had no options to consider, then all bets would be off. In that situation, however, even the strategy the City has adopted wouldn't work. The amount it will cost to treat our older employees with compassion and respect is not enough to make or break the City's financial future. Not even close.

Together with my fellow Councilmembers I have been focused on careful stewardship of the City's resources.

We have developed new sources of revenue and kept our costs as low as possible. We have achieved a lot together, but on this issue we see things differently.

The way we answer the question I posed will say a lot about our community. I feel the answer deep in my bones. It is: Rather than breaking commitments to achieve savings that do little or nothing to ensure the City's long-term financial stability, we should honor our word and continue our efforts to find real solutions to ensure it.

"Grandfathering in" the retiree medical benefits of long-time and older workers is a cost-effective way to protect the quality of our services and care for the well-being of vulnerable members of our "City family." The policy our City is currently pursuing threatens both and will not save jobs or solve our financial problems. It is already taking a toll on our workforce. This is a situation in which the smart choice and the right choice are one and the same.

There is still time to change the course we're on. I urge you to call or email each and every City Councilmember and tell them, "find another way."

You can read this essay online at: <http://culvercity2020.org>

Full Disclosure: Culver City Councilmembers including Councilmember Malsin will be affected by these changes.

Challenging the Council "Perk"

By Charles A. Deen

The six Employee Associations and City Manager John Nachbar have been hard at work bargaining with each other in good faith. On behalf of Culver City taxpayers, the City Council has asked these six unions to help them bend the cost-curve of future California State Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) health benefits downward. On the hard bargaining table is this concept - save more city jobs now and manage future retirement costs better. Thanks to a 4-0 City Council vote, we have a Win/Win budget deal on the table.

For too many years, prior City Councils have effectively ignored, at annual budget time, the unfunded future costs of taxpayer-paid lifetime health insurance and medical care for retired City Council members. This "quiet little perk" to our City Council members has been sitting under the budget radar screen for years with scant, if any, public disclosure.

Now at this late date, a seventh employee bargaining unit, the City Council Part-Time Workers Union (CCPTWU), has entered the scene. The CCPTWU has an ongoing letters-to-the-editors campaign and recently established its Culver City 2020.com website to advocate its singular, self-serving view that - ...The City Council has recently approved labor contracts covering many of our employees that radically alter retiree medical benefits. While financial necessity does indeed require us to move towards a different and more sustainable model, there is a right way and a wrong way to do so ...

How many CCPTWU members are there? One: Councilman David Scott Malsin.

What is the issue? According to knowledgeable sources, an estimated cost of between \$20,000 and \$25,000 per retiree, per year, for his or her remaining lifetime. This covers PERS health insurance and 95% paid medical care for the CCPTWU retiree and his family. There is 5% co-pay cost to the retiree. What is the unfunded cost of lifetime health benefits to Culver City taxpayers? Only a PERS insurance actuary could tell you.

In past years, what was the justification for this tax-free Council perk? Prior to the 2006 City Charter change to the City Manager form of government, Culver City was managed far more directly by the City Council, which interviewed and negotiated the salary contracts of all Department Heads. The City Council had hands-on responsibility to negotiate annual contracts with the six Employee Associations. The City Council had to meet nearly every single Monday to adopt policy and give management directions to the City Administrator Officer (CAO) and every Department Director. Council-Agency meetings would require many hours of public discussion - often not concluding until 1 AM. With some justification, considering all of the micro-management duties and responsibilities, prior City Councils felt entitled to full PERS health insurance benefits.

When he ran for Council in 2006, Mr. Malsin supported the argument that City Council should not be micro-managing every city department and was successful in being a strong advocate for City Charter change to the City Manager form of government. We would have a City Manager to do all the hiring and firing of management personnel. City Council should allow the city professionals to do their jobs for Culver City residents - without behind-the-scenes interference and micro-management by individual Council Members. With reduced responsibilities, the City Council should be more concerned with governmental cost efficiency, policy matters, public issues and the City and Redevelopment Agency annual budget matters. Effectively, Mr. Malsin was advocating that his City Council job should require much less hands-on work for himself.

Now that the City Council hires the City Manager and allows that professional to do his job in managing Culver City without Council interference; it only makes pragmatic sense - especially during these tough economic times - to reduce the cost of City Council health insurance benefits to the taxpayers. With the State of California attempting to vacuum up nearly every tax dollar, the City Council (by 4-0 vote) is working to save more city jobs now and manage future retirement costs better.

By reducing its own PERS health insurance benefit costs, the City Council is giving back exactly what City Employees are being asked to give back.

Mr. Malsin did you hire a City Manager who has reduced City Council workload or not? Did you vote a 15% pay raise for the City Manager because he does more work? If the City Manager does more work, then you are working less. What are you going to give back for doing less work?

Westside Childrens Center
Sponsors Program

The Westside Childrens Center announces sponsorship of the Child @ Adult Care Food program which is available at no charge to all eligible children at the center, 12120 Wagner St., Culver City.

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City Manager's Report

By John Nachbar



Community Development Department

- Abraxis Bioscience (9920 Jefferson Boulevard) – Plans were submitted for an existing two-building site and surface parking to be repurposed and developed into an office campus. Components of the new project include replacement of existing windows, roofing and additional skylights. The project will also have the removal of some areas of the second floor framing to allow natural light into the first floor. The project will have enhanced or replaced landscape materials. The existing parking structure will be demolished to make way for the replacement building, which will be permitted separately in Phase 2.
- Genton Properties Group – A permit has been issued for new storefronts located at 10361, 10365, 10371, 10375, 10381, 10385, and 10391 Jefferson Boulevard.
- Westfield Culver City - Plans have been approved for a tenant improvement for the Old Navy store, which will now be located above Lucille's Barbeque. Permits have been issued for new restaurants, Extreme Pizza, and Burger King.
- MO VENTURES – A permit has been issued for a tenant improvement located at 3578 Hayden Avenue.
- ME Engineers - Plans have been approved for a tenant improvement located at 10113 Jefferson Boulevard.
- Edge-Up – A permit has been issued for a new mall kiosk at Westfield Culver City
- Prettybird – Plans submitted for a tenant improvement located at 9905 Jefferson Boulevard.
- TJ Maxx – Plans have been submitted for a tenant improvement located at 11020 Jefferson Boulevard.
- The Sweet Shop – Plans have been submitted for a tenant improvement located at 3500 Helms Avenue.
- Taco Bell – Permit issued for a tenant improvement, including an addition of 207 square foot facade remodel, and parking lot improvements, located at 4416 Sepulveda Boulevard.
- Former Albertson Chevrolet Dealership - Preliminary Plans were submitted for the remodel into a 34,000 square foot retail commercial center. A community outreach meeting is scheduled for September 7.
- 11957 Washington Boulevard (at Marcase) – Staff conducted a community outreach meeting for the proposed mixed use project. The project consists of 30 residential units and approximately 9,000 square feet of retail commercial space. In addition, the project proposes to provide street scape improvements as part of the required community benefits in exchange for increased residential density.
- Washington/Centinela Open House - An Open House was held on August 20 to discuss the details of the proposed Market Hall project to give residents the opportunity to answer any questions about the project. The Open House was attended by 40

individuals. A second community meeting to present more detailed conceptual plans is scheduled for the evening of August 31.

- Globe Avenue Site - Staff received negotiating instructions to work with Habitat for Humanity on a site design.
- Tilden Terrace – Plans are currently being reviewed by Building Safety, Planning and Engineering Divisions.
- 2012 Culver City Performing Arts Grant Program: Staff conducted a grant workshop on August 10, and 13 performing arts organizations from throughout Los Angeles County attended. The 2012 application is posted on the Arts & Culture page at www.culvercity.org, and the deadline for submittal is September 7.
- Made in Culver City - Marketing is underway for this year's free screening of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde on Saturday, September 17 at 7:30 pm in the City Hall Courtyard. Flyer distribution has started and a bi-lingual flyer is being prepared for distribution at Culver City Middle School. The program is presented in association with the UCLA Film & Television Archive and the Culver City Historical Society. More information is available by calling the Cultural Affairs Hotline at (310) 253-5716 or by visiting the Arts & Culture page at www.culvercity.org.
- Culver City Music Festival - The concert series concluded with Poncho Sanchez and his Latin Jazz Band on August 25, and an estimated 1,200 people attended.
- Art in Public Places Program - Shannon Ebner gave a public talk on Saturday about her temporary installation, and, per se and, currently on view on the NE corner of Washington Boulevard & Centinela Avenue. This project is in collaboration with the Hammer Museum and LA><ART and will be on view through October 14, 2011. For more information visit http://hammer.ucla.edu/exhibitions/detail/exhibition_id/204.
- Art in Public Places Program - Staff gave an overview and tour of various artworks included in the City's Art in Public Places Program on Thursday to Edward Goldman, KCRW's resident art critic and host of Art Talk. The tour culminated with a stop at Thom Mayne's offices on Wesley Street to view the entry gate and fence designed and fabricated by Tom Farrage.
- Ramen Yamadaya - Jin Yamada's popular Torrance ramen shop, opened its second location in Culver City at Washington Boulevard and Commonwealth Avenue.
- Vanity Room - A retail store on Main Street, closed and the space is currently for lease.
- Rocco's Restaurant - The restaurant debuted a speakeasy called Seventy 7 which replaces the former Tokyo 7-7 diner.
- Moko - The modern Korean restaurant that replaced Gyenari, has closed and a less expensive and more accessible option, G2 (Gyenari 2) will offer an all you can eat Korean BBQ and a lively happy hour.

Fire Department.

- Fiesta La Ballona - Members of the Fire Department participated in this year's Fiesta La Ballona. The weekend event provided the Fire Department personnel an opportunity to meet community members and provide them hand-outs regarding fire safety, fire prevention tips, and lots of information regarding emergency preparedness. It was also an opportunity to provide the many youngsters, who stopped in to say "hello", with many different give-a-ways reminding them to be safe. The event was a huge success, and the Fire Department enjoyed being able to participate.

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FREE LIVING TRUST SEMINAR

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 *WHAT will happen if you can't make medical decisions?
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Police blotter

August 30 through September 5

Stolen Moped:

On August 30 at 7:58 am of ficers responded to the 1 1000 block of Wagner Street regarding a stole moped. The officers met with the victim who told them the following; he parked his 1988 Yamaha next to his garage on December 1, 2010. He discovered the moped missing on December 10, 2010. No one had permission to drive the moped.

Attempt Robbery:

On August 30 at 10:30 pm officers responded to the 10700 block of Lugo Way regarding an attempt robbery investigation. The officers met with the victim who told them the following; he was walking on Rhoda Way and Kinston Avenue when a vehicle passed him and stopped and the suspect exited the vehicle and approached him and demanded his property. Fearing for his safety, he punched the suspect and fled the area.

Vandalism:

On August 30 at 10:35 pm officers responded to the 4100 block of Wade Street regarding vandalism in progress. The officers arrived and discovered suspect(s) had graffiti the building in the area. The suspect(s) fled the area prior to the of ficer's arrival.

Residential Burglary:

On September 3 at 10:43 am of ficers responded to the 10700 block of Galvin Street regarding a burglary investigation. The officers arrived and met with the victim who told them the following; she left her residence at 8:30 am and when she returned at 10:30 am she discovered her property had been moved inside her residence. She also discovered her rear door was opened.

Burglary from Motor Vehicle:

On September 4 at 1 1:40 am officers responded to the 6300 block of Hetzler Road regarding a car burglary. The officers met with the victim who told them the following; she parked and locked her 2000 Nissan at 11 am and returned at 11:35 and discovered her front passenger window shattered. She looked inside and discovered her property missing.

Commercial Burglary:

On September 5 at 8:19 am of ficers responded to the 8700 block of Washington Boulevard regarding a burglary investigation. The officers met with the reporting party who told them the following; she left the location locked and secured on September 3. When she returned on the 5th she discovered the front door's window was shattered. She then discovered the unknown suspect(s) removed property and fled the location.

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- Fee Policy - PRCS Director Daniel Hernandez and staff met with representatives of various swim teams to discuss implementation of the 2009 fees policy. All organizations have been kept informed as to the requirements to submit accurate records justifying status and appropriate fees, with updated fees going into effect on September 1.
 - Joint Use Agreements - Discussions are ongoing between staff and various private schools in the area to discuss possible joint use agreements for City parks in exchange for gym space. We have also approached schools in regard to possibly contracting with them to provide swim lessons as a part of their physical education programs.
 - Just4Kids Camp - Just4Kids Camp had a great summer, which included events such as the Olympic Day Competition and the Metropolitan Education Theater Network's production of "Little Orphan Annie." The summer also included a variety of day trips, water play days and daily activities that provided education fun and a positive team building environment.
 - Teen Camp - The Summer Teen Camp also had another successful year, with field trips to local amusement parks, museum scavenger hunts that included trips to the Peterson Museum, the Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art, the La Brea Tar Pits and the Page Museum. Organized activities kept the teens and staff engaged and involved, including team building games to help with peer-to-peer interaction.
 - Counselor in Training Program - The summer's newest program was the "Counselor in Training Program", for youth ages 14 - 16. Participants received hands-on experience working with Day Camp program staff for ten weeks. Training included First Aid and CPR, skills on how to deal with children in the 5 - 10 year age bracket, camp programming, and creating a fun and safe environment.
 - Teen Center - With school starting the Teen Center will reopen its doors for the school year. The program offers 180 days of after-school care for \$100 per year.
 - Culver City After School Program (CCASP) - Staff is also preparing for the CCASP, which started September 6. To improve membership, advertising for CCASP began in June and press releases have been issued to the Culver City Observer, the Culver City News and The Wave. This year's program will again focus on the homework component by offering an hour of quiet time each day for homework and assistance. Other program highlights include new computer software to increase student reading and math skills, healthy fresh fruit snacks, and recreational activities.
 - Parks and playgrounds hours of operation changed on August 29 to reflect the end of summer and the beginning of the fall season. Recreation Leaders will continue their responsibility of monitoring the nine Culver City parks.
 - Parks - The Parks Division has a series of ongoing facility maintenance and capital improvement upgrades in various stages:
 1. Fox Hills Park Tennis Courts - The tennis courts' outdated wood lath windscreens are being replaced by new fabric windscreens at all courts;
 2. Various Parks - The playground resilient-and-safety surfacing in many of our parks is worn and is being repaired by a specialty contractor;
 3. Culver City Park - With the tree planting completed at two of the abandoned PXP well sites, the AQMD Grant Project is starting the irrigation installation phase this week, with the long range plan to convert these areas into much needed passive use areas in the park.
 - Senior & Social Services - The Senior Center will be offering a series of seminars for members in September titled, "Those Things Your Grandkids Know," taking place on Thursday afternoons from 1 - 2 PM:
 - Hispanic Heritage Month - September 15 - October 15, honors the many contributions Hispanic Americans have made and continue to make to our nation.
 - The Home Delivered Meal Program - This program, which provides services to 30 Culver City home-bound residents, has started delivering meals in reusable containers, in compliance with the County of Los Angeles Department of Community and Senior Services and Area Agency on Aging.
- Police Department**
- K/9 Demonstration at the La Ballona Festival - The Culver City Police Department's Canine Unit performed a demonstration to the public at this year's La Ballona Festival.
- Public Works Department**
- Catch Basin Insert Installations Started - The City's contractor has begun installing catch basin inserts with retractable screens and connector pipe screens throughout the City.
 - Air Quality Management District (AQMD) Tree Planting Grant - The Public Works and the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Departments have completed an AQMD-funded tree planting project. This project included planting trees on the slope area above the Dog Park and in two areas of the Culver City Park (near the base of the nature trail and near the turn from Leash Lane up to the ball fields).
 - Speed Hump Installations - On August 8 the City Council authorized the installation of five speed bumps on Culver Park Drive and five speed humps on Segrell Way, between Sawtelle Boulevard and Slauson Avenue.
 - Safe Routes to School - On August 20 staff held a noticed community meeting regarding Safe Routes to School in the vicinity of the High School, Middle School, Farragut Elementary School, and the Child Development Center. Staff received input from the approximately 50 attendees. Currently, staff is in the process of reviewing the input received, and is planning another community meeting on the topic of Safe Routes to School for the fall.
 - Chiller/Boiler Installation - The replacement of the chiller and the boiler at the Veterans Memorial Building has begun. This work is anticipated to be completed during the week of September 13.
 - P-521 Bristol Sewer Pump Station Site Improvements and Sewer Pump Station Bypass Improvements - The City Council awarded a construction contract to Atlas-Allied in the amount of \$290,640.
 - Sepulveda Boulevard Widening Project - The project is on schedule to be completed in mid-November.
- Transportation**
- Service Change - Public Hearing - In order to accommodate the impending opening of the Expo Light Rail Station, staff is proposing an increase in service along Line 4. Service is proposed to run every 30 minutes as opposed to the current hourly headway. Comments are encouraged via email at CityBus@culvercity.org, by phone at (310) 253-6569, or in writing to Culver CityBus at 4343 Duquesne Avenue, Culver City, CA 90232, Attention: Service Change Proposal.
 - Electric Car Demonstration - Last week the Equipment Maintenance & Fleet Services Division had a 100% Electric Car (100% EV) to use and demonstrate to all City staff the clean technology and operating characteristics of a 100% electric vehicle.



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911 - Continued From Page 1

- o Protecting the integrity of stair and elevator enclosures
 - o Increasing the reliability of fire protection systems
 - o Improving the installation of structural fireproofing
 - o Facilitating improved emergency responder operations
- "Although better building design and construction methods cannot stop determined terrorists, they can dramatically increase the number of lives saved in the event of an attack," said Jelenewicz. "The changes to the way fire protection engineers design tall buildings have become the new norm in the construction industry and will certainly make our tall buildings safer."

The SPFE survey was conducted online within the US in January 2011 among 1,000 adults. Respondents for this survey were selected via a systematic random sample from among those who have agreed to participate in Synovate Panel surveys. The Synovate online panel is composed of over 840,000 adults who have been recruited to regularly participate in Synovate's online surveys. Results were weighted by age, race/ethnicity, sex, and education, to reflect population proportions. The complete survey is available at www.sfpe.org/SFPETools/MediaPress.aspx.

According to the Society of Fire Protection Engineers, a fire protection engineer applies science and engineering principles to protect people, homes, workplaces, the economy and the environment from the devastating effects of fires.

Fire protection engineers analyze how buildings are used, how fires start and grow, and how fires affect people and property. They use the latest technologies to design systems to control fires, alert people to danger, and provide means for escape. Fire protection engineers also work closely with other professionals, including engineers of other disciplines, architects, state and local building officials, and local fire departments to build fire safe communities. Fire protection engineers are in high demand. The number of available jobs far exceeds the supply.

Birthdays

Where did the summer go? Oh, wait a minute - the heat has just arrived. So now that we are caught up we want to celebrate the birthdays for the beginning of September which are, are Jack Newton, John Shaiko, Isaac Danner, Marilyn Wilson, Patti LaBarbera, Stephen Douglas, JinJin Mayberry, Beverly Walker, Donald Chan, Phillip Bonacich, Brenda Ramsey, Edita Niemi, Cindy Galvez, Linda Locksley, Jacqueline Winston, Ray Smith, Elbert Irving, Liza Mohammed, Nanci Bolas, Birikti Gebremeskel, Donna Delegeane, Eden Yeman, Jennifer Madariaga, Cynthia Headrick, Linda Weisbach, Lisa Clark, Jennifer Spencer, Hanna Dershowitz, Oranuch Sumanun, Melinda Blecher, Heidi Gamble, Liliana Ballario, Lena Johnson, Keya Merah, Basilia Flores, Ai Fukushima, Claudia Rodriguez, John Anaya, David Morgenthaler, William New, Cristian Pastor Jim Maines, Paul Netzel, Martina Lopez- McBurnie, Bette Gregory Robert Ford, Roger Shaulis, Cherie Riban, Bob Clarke, Karen Ellingson, Bob Chiarolla, Walter Kuhn, Jr., Steve Brown, Pat Dolce, Mike Melton, Jay Roperia, Richard Haubach, Fred Hofeld, Irene Sugiyama, Patricia Foster, Dorothy Lindner, Alan Wendell, Debra Fischer, Sue-Ann Leeds, Robert Marquez, Ann Sewill, Jerome Neal, Dave Thompson, Leigh Ellis, Naia Waters, Edward Park, Todd Johnson, Ruth Greenberg, Carolina Okimoto, Dawn Anderson, Kenneth Gilbreth, Amber Trueblood, Claudia Rodriguez, Leigh-Anne Lui, Rhianna Lusthoff, Andrea Leith, and Jorge Mendez.

To have your birthday added or removed please email publisher@culvercityobserver.com and put BIRTHDAY in the subject line.

We won't tie you down.



Metro Briefs

WESTSIDE/CENTRAL

Buy A 7- Or 30-Day Pass Anytime... Now On TAP

Metro's Weekly Pass is now a flexible 7-Day Pass, good for 7 consecutive days starting the first day it is used, rather than for a specific calendar week. Similarly, Metro's Monthly Pass has become a 30-Day Pass, good for 30 consecutive days starting the first day it is used. Look for details at metro.net.

Groundbreaking Set For Expo Phase 2

Ceremonies are scheduled later this month to begin extending the Expo Line now under construction farther west to Santa Monica. The first segment of the Expo Line runs between 7th Street/Metro Center in Downtown LA and Venice/Robertson boulevards in Culver City.

K-12 Student Passes Now On TAP

All Metro reduced-fare student paper passes have been converted to TAP, the electronic fare card that is now in use throughout the Metro system. Students in kindergarten through 12th grade need special TAP cards to be eligible for reduced fares. Look for instructions and applications aboard Metro buses and trains or go to metro.net for details.

Construction Planned At Wilshire, I-405

Metro is building new on- and off-ramps to the I-405 at Wilshire Boulevard as part of its Sepulveda Pass freeway improvements project. As a result, the Wilshire ramps will be closed for extended periods. For details, as well as project updates, go to metro.net/405.

Metro Adopts Green Construction Policy

Metro has become one of the first transit agencies in the country to set up a policy aimed at reducing harmful emissions from construction equipment used in the agency's transportation projects. The policy is being incorporated into the requirements of all future construction contracts.



If you'd like to know more, visit metro.net.

Illustration: www.metro.net

CITY OF CULVER CITY NOTICE INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR APPOINTMENTS TO CITY COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES AND BOARDS

The City of Culver City is now accepting applications for appointment of members to the following City Commissions, Committees and Boards:

BOARD/ COMMITTEE/ COMMISSION	NUMBER OF APPOINTMENTS	TERM OF OFFICE	CITY RESIDENCY REQUIRED?	SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS	DUTIES
Disability Advisory Committee	2	October 2011 thru June 30, 2015	No	Personal or professional experience with disabilities required.	Advocate for persons w/ disabilities in the Culver City community & make recommendations to staff and/or the City Council.
Landlord-Tenant Mediation Board	2 – Tenant Representative	October 2011 thru June 30, 2014	Tenant – Yes Tenant Alternate - Yes	Call Housing Division at (310)253-5780 for requirements of each category or refer to application.	Provide mandatory "good faith" mediation of residential rental disputes relating to rent increases in Culver City.
	1 - Tenant Alternate	No Term			
Advisory Committee on Redevelopment	1	October 2011 thru June 30, 2015	If not a resident, then candidate must either represent a business or property within the Redevelopment Project Area, or a community organization active in Culver City.	None	Advise the Culver City Redevelopment Agency on development projects within the Project Area before they are reviewed by the Redevelopment Agency, and to review and comment on Redevelopment Agency sponsored programs.

Applications are available during business hours from the City Clerk's Office located on the first floor of City Hall (9770 Culver Boulevard). **Applications will be accepted by the City Clerk's Office until 5:00 P.M. on Tuesday, September 20, 2011.** Appointments are scheduled to be made by the City Council on Monday, October 3, 2011. Applications are available in person at 9770 Culver Boulevard, First Floor; or may be requested by phoning (310) 253-5851, or can be obtained on the City's website (www.culvercity.org). Completed applications may be dropped off at the City Clerk's Office or mailed. **No faxes will be accepted.** Business hours are 7:30 A.M.--5:30 P.M. City Hall is closed on alternate Fridays (City Hall will be closed on August 26 and September 9). City Hall will also be closed on Labor Day (September 5).



Doozy, a band specializing in music of the 1920s and 1930s will be featured at the Culver City Historical Society's Doozy of a Do fundraiser and celebration of the city's 94-year history at the newly-renovated Historic Culver Hotel at 9400 Washington Boulevard, Culver City, on Sunday, September 18, from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Please call 310-253-6941 for information; visit the Website at <http://culvercityhistoricalsociety.org> for more details.

Culver City Chamber Celebrates "First" 90 Years

The Culver City Chamber of Commerce celebrated its first 90 years of promoting commerce in Culver City on August 24, 2011 at Westfield Culver City. Sony Pictures Entertainment and Westfield Culver City were the sponsors. Hundreds of civic and business leaders were on hand. Sports broadcaster Jim Hill was the Master of Ceremonies.

Eight California wineries presented their wines at the 90th anniversary celebration. The Culver Hotel, Doubletree by Hilton and Courtyard by Marriott served fine tastes to accompany the wine tasting.

Throughout the event, a special anniversary video showcased historic highlights of the Culver City Chamber of Commerce and the growth of Culver City.

PHOTOS AT RIGHT Top-Bottom: Vintage Culver City Police Car greeted those arriving for the 90th Anniversary celebration; a large crowd enjoyed the evening; Sports Broadcaster Jim Hill served as Master of Ceremony; Marilyn Monroe look-a-like serenaded Chamber President Steven Rose.



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SPORTS

Culver Begins Favorable Football Schedule

When Culver City High begins its 2011 football schedule Friday night it will begin a most favorable non-league portion.

Starting with the 7 p.m. game against West Torrance, Culver will have five of its first six games on its home field.

Culver will play at Peninsula Sept. 16, then will be back home against Redondo, Leuzinger, Narbonne and Morningside.

The game against Morningside on October 14 will be homecoming.

For the last four weeks of the season Culver will be away three times.

The only home game in that period will be against Santa Monica on November 4.

Last season Inglewood was the Ocean League champion. Culver City, Santa Monica and Beverly Hills tied for second place.

Culver Football Schedule

Sept. 9 - home vs. West Torrance, 7 pm

Sept. 16 - at Peninsula, 3 pm

Sept. 23 - home vs. Redondo, 7 pm

Sept. 30 - home vs. Leuzinger, 7 pm

Oct. 7 - home vs. Narbonne, 7 pm

Oct. 14 - home vs. Morningside, 7 pm

Oct. 21 - at Inglewood, 7 pm

Oct. 28 - at Hawthorne, 7 pm

Nov. 4 - home vs. Santa Monica, 7 pm

Nov. 11 - at Beverly Hills, 7 pm



Line Coach Jesse Sanchez watches intently as Kevin Melendez (left) and Kayon Warren (right) work on their blocking technique and battle it out to see who is "King of the Hill"

photo by George Laase

Standards Are Different, But USC, UCLA Disappoint



Mitch Chortkoff

USC wins and UCLA loses their 2011 football openers. Nothing different there.

But since the standards are different both have disappointing season debuts.

USC draws 68,000 to the Coliseum for its 19-17 victory over Minnesota. That's a lot of people but it's the Trojans' smallest opening game crowd in eight years.

USC rolls to a 19-3 lead but has to hang on through an unsatisfying second half, and the Trojans are then voted out of the top 25 in the national rankings.

UCLA coach Rick Neuheisel is on the hot seat following three disappointing years and this is no time to lose to Houston, which isn't one of the better teams on the Bruins' schedule. But even though the Bruins' offense shows promise the result is a 38-34 defeat.

And even though a victory is likely Saturday over a weak San Jose State team which was routed by Stanford Saturday the quarterback position is unsettled. Kevin Prince is injured again and Richard Brehaut looked good

against Houston.

So this is the state of college football in Southern California as fans become increasingly uncomfortable with the prospect of neither team going to a bowl game.

USC got productive running from D.J. Morgan and former Venice High star Curtis McNeal, a junior who was erroneously listed as a senior in this space last week. In addition, suspended star Marc Tyler is practicing and Coach Lane Kiffin has reinstated Tyler for the Utah game.

In a nationally televised game Monday night Miami showed the effects of having eight players suspended in a 32-24 loss to Maryland.

The situation is similar to what's happening at USC, where NCAA violations led to suspensions which removed the Trojans' outstanding depth on defense last season.

Both USC and Miami still have some outstanding players but with less of them fatigue sets in and one of their greatest advantages over most opponents is eliminated.

This Saturday USC has an interesting game against Utah, one of the two new members of the Pac-10 (now Pac-12) conference. Utah is highly regarded and has Norm Chow, the former mastermind of USC quarterbacks, on its staff.



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A GOOD OLD FASHIONED ORGY

MOVIE REVIEW



debbie lynn elias

Schools back in session, kids are gone and now its time for you to do something fun. So, how about an orgy? A GOOD OLD FASHIONED ORGY, that is. With a cast that's a veritable Who's Who of comedy - both in front of and behind the camera, A GOOD OLD FASHIONED ORGY is ridiculously funny, at times raunchy, always raucous, and always a sweet romp. I unabashedly admit that I love it. Sometimes you just need a no-brainer movie that makes you laugh out loud and I don't know when I've laughed so hard at so many different things and yet walked away with a happy heart at the way laughter unfolds via true heart and heartfelt caring that our principals have for each other.

Eric Keppler and his Manhattanite friends - Mike, Sue, Laura, Alison, Doug, Willow, Adam, and the soon to be married but with baby already in tow, Will and Kate - have spent their lives sharing summers and weekends at the Keppler family summer home in the Hamptons. This has been their home away from home since high school and has been home to more outrageous, outlandish, over-the-top parties than any can remember, holding a more than a special place in each of their hearts. So imagine their distress when Eric's father announces that he's selling the house. Devastation is an understatement.



But while bemoaning the inevitable, the under-terred Eric knows what's needed. One final bash to end all bashes. Should it be as big and flashy as the infamous White Trash Bash? Or the Fourth of July bashes complete with fireworks. No. In a flash of brilliance it hits him. An orgy. A quiet simple orgy for just the core group; minus Will and Kate given their baby and newlywed status. While Mike McCrudden is up for anything that involves alcohol and party mode, the rest of the group is less than enthusiastic...at first. But as plans move ahead for their end of summer, end of a lifetime marker that will take these 30-some-things into responsible adulthood, another wrinkle arises. The realtors are trying to sell the house before Labor Day setting the wheels in motion for more comedic fodder as Eric and the gang must thwart any sale until after they've said their final "good-bye."

The acting is perfect for the respective characters. I am in total lust with the sweet comedy of Jason Sudeikis, not to mention what he does with his character, Eric. It's not often you see a film like this where you have a group of 20 or 30 somethings that live to party BUT also realize that it's time to grow up, move on, be an adult. That's exactly what Sudeikis brings to Eric. He is the alpha male, the V

Wilder party liaison, but he also realizes that time marches on and so must each of them.

Nicely tying in that theme is the character of Alison who is played to the hilt with snide, know-it-all, condescending perfection by Lake Bell. And what can one say about Tyler Labine as Mike? He is the central pushed-to-the-limit comedic base around which everyone revolves. Labine leaves no stone unturned when going for laughs. Of course, being funny does present its challenges, particularly when everyone in the cast is known for comedy and the spotlight isn't just on "you." "In the beginning the bits and being funny all the time was ****ing exhausting. Gradually, everyone started admitting that we all felt like we were the unfunny one in the group."

Lindsay Sloane is still and always will be the shy, insecure nice girl Valerie we first met on "Sabrina the Teenage Witch" years ago. Because we know Sloane and her prior characters, we understand her as Laura and it tempers the film's overall inanity, adding some real heart to the story. Of course, the orgy concept was something very new to Sloane. "We battled our own personal insecurities and vulnerabilities... And Pete [Huyck] and Alex [Gregory], so intelligently, saved [the orgy] for the end of shooting where we would have a

rapprochement and a friendship. . . It's already hard. It was kind of a very well choreographed dance that we had to do where you were covering bits and pieces but the people that you were already so close with are legitimately seeing your bits and pieces because they have to. I get a lot closer with Nick Kroll's thigh than I ever thought I would!" And of great importance to Sloane (and her dad) is that she is the one cast member that had a butt double.

Nick Kroll brings a droll obsessiveness to Adam is charming but even more engaging is his chemistry with Sloane. You really want to see Laura and Adam get together from the very start of the film, and not just in an orgy! Not to be missed are Will Forte and Luch Punch who, as Glenn and Kate, with minimal screen time escalate the humor tenfold. Unfortunately, as realtor Kelly, Leslie Bibb is the fish out of water. She doesn't really fit with the mix nor does she fit in her character I normally like her performances, but here she rubs me the wrong way.

The real scene stealers, however, are veteran character actors David Koechner and Lin Shaye who you have to see to believe. They are beyond hysterical in the film but I understand there's a lot more of them to see on the DVD! I can't wait.



Co-written and directed by Alex Gregory and Peter Huyck, A GOOD OLD FASHIONED ORGY is really a journey of self-exploration, pushing boundaries and limits, finding and testing the depth of yourself, friendships and loves and being able to come out on the other side with newfound realization and appreciation for each other and yourself. There is no guys vs the girls rivalry going on. It's all about friends and this group that is really a single synergistic entity made up of individual personas that together, make a whole...and in this case, a whole lot of fun. Great care and construction is expeditiously and efficiently given to developing the depth and length of the friendships within the group. Personalities are quickly identified thanks not only to each actor's spot on immersion, but costuming, snippets of work situations. Within minutes, we know who each character is, where they fall within the pecking order of the group. Everything comes together, however, once they are all at the Hamptons house, and there is never any doubt that these people are, and have been, friends.

According to Huyck, "Our hope was that the focus was really on a group of friends and on friendship and that's really the true line of the film. A lot of people already were friends and knew each other so that made it very easy. . . They would do a lot of that prep work where they got together a long time beforehand and would do dinner parties and really got to know each other." Gregory echoes the sentiment. "The cast had really bonded in the period before shooting and it allowed for a certain kind of emotional closeness and camaraderie that you just can't fake." Nick Kroll credits "Pete [Huyck] and Alex [Gregory] for putting together a cast of people who would be game for not only doing an orgy but submitting themselves to becoming very close friends with a group of people. I think they were able to select people who seemed like they would have that and were just game for it."

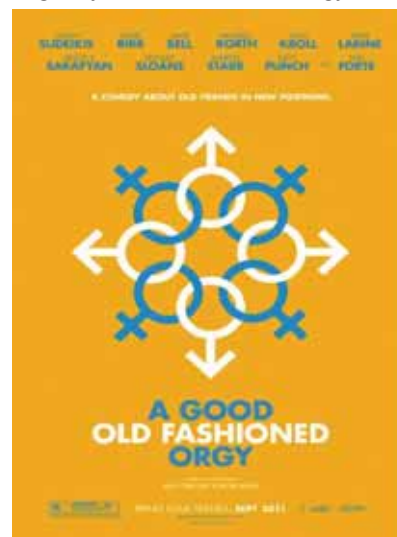
When it came time for that all important orgy scene, Huyck, Gregory and the cast were more than prepared. As Tyler Labine explains it, "We got brought to North Carolina about 2

weeks before we started production so we had ample time to get to know each other before we started shooting. There was much much alcohol in those early weeks." Nick Kroll agrees, opining, "We really started to get to know each other. Orgy training. [Laughing]" But beyond the cast were the technical logistics of shooting the scene. According to Huyck, "We actually hired a storyboard artist just for that sequence [the orgy]. . . We wanted to make sure every shot was blocked perfectly so we would know exactly what would happen, how we were going to edit."

Gregory gives much credit to the crew for the successful shooting on A GOOD OLD FASHIONED ORGY. "We had a really awesome crew who were also part of the reason why everything worked. Our Director of Photography, John Thomas, shot both 'Sex in the City' movies and many many episodes of 'Sex in the City' so we knew he could handle sexual situations, particularly with women, tastefully, and make them feel comfortable and also make them look beautiful. He [also] had a good eye for how to frame talking comedies. We were in really good hands. Everyone felt safe and that were in good responsible hands and he wasn't going to try and tricks or anything. I think that also helped get everyone on board." Alan Hook steps in as Production Designer and nowhere is his work more notable than with the ultimate orgy scene. It is just breathtakingly apportioned.

And the icing on the cake... Jon Sadoff's score and an eclectic sound track mix by Music Supervisor, Peymon Maskan.

A GOOD OLD FASHIONED ORGY. A genuinely sweet, funny and fun film that just happens to include a friendly little good old fashioned orgy.



Eric - Jason Sudeikis
Mike - Tyler Labine
Alison - Lake Bell
Laura - Lindsay Sloane
Adam - Nick Kroll
Sue - Michelle Borth
Duquez - Martin Starr
Willow - Angela Sarafyan
Kelly - Leslie Bibb
Glenn - Will Forte
Kate - Lucy Punch

Written and Directed by Alex Gregory and Peter Huyck.

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