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THE WEATHER, BEVERLY HILLS

☁ Friday	74°   62°
☀ Saturday	75°   62°
☁ Sunday	72°   61°
☁ Monday	69°   59°
☀ Tuesday	71°   60°
☀ Wednesday	78°   63°
☀ Thursday	79°   63°

## Beverly Hills Fire Department Adjusts to COVID-19

BY SAMUEL BRASLOW



Beverly Hills Fire Department Chief Greg Barton (left) and Captain Brad McHenry at station  
Photo by Samuel Braslow

The first hint of real trouble for the Beverly Hills Fire Department came in February, when one of the firefighters shared that their child's school had been canceled due to COVID-19. The next day, Battalion Chief

Scott Stevens received the same news about his child's school. "Then the next morning, it was my [child's] school," recalled Captain Brad McHenry.

As essential workers, firefighters didn't

have the option of returning home to help spouses cope with the extra workload. Instead, the members of the 95-year-old department had to reconfigure routines, implement new protocols, and adjust to a strange new world of firefighting in the era of COVID-19.

The Courier obtained inside access to the day-to-day workings of the Beverly Hills Fire Department, as it continues to cope with life during the pandemic.

### Call Load Changes

After the stay-at-home order went out, "our call load went down as well, because you weren't getting as many traffic accidents [and] fire alarms weren't going off," Beverly Hills Fire Chief Greg Barton told the Courier during a visit to the station June 23. In fact, calls went down by around 30 percent. "But now we're starting to see that go back up because people are coming back to work and traffic is increasing," he added.

The majority of the calls that the fire department receives are medical related, not fire. About half of the crew are trained paramedics. The coronavirus has necessitated a slightly more cautious approach in responding to emergency calls, although Stevens stressed that they are no slower for it.

(Fire Department continues on page 13)

## City Council to Consider Mixed-Use Ordinance

BY LAURA COLEMAN

While it is unlikely to happen this year, portions of Beverly Hills have the potential to significantly change as developers begin to avail themselves to the City's first-ever mixed-use ordinance. That is, if the City Council votes to approve one.

Following the Planning Commission's unanimous vote on June 19 in support of a draft ordinance to create a mixed-use overlay zone in certain commercially zoned areas of the City, the Council will now consider signing the ordinance into law. The term "mixed use" is most commonly used to refer to a building or development that includes

a mix of commercial and residential uses, with housing units generally located on the upper floors of a building.

Per the resolution, the ordinance will "establish uniform standards for mixed-use developments in the City with the goals of providing flexibility for property owners who wish to build housing and commercial space, respecting adjacent residential communities, encouraging a mix of housing types in the city, and revitalizing commercial corridors in the City, especially those near transit."

(City Council continues on page 13)

## Metro Purple Line On Track to Open in Beverly Hills in 2023

BY LAURA COLEMAN

The Purple Line Extension continues to make headway in connecting the Eastside and Westside, with Beverly Hills' first subway station at Wilshire/La Cienega on track to open in 2023.

(Metro Purple continues on page 11)

**We Salute Our First Responders**

BEVERLY HILLS COURIER



# The Scene

## The Wine Tasting Scene

BY CAROLE DIXON



Bolero Winery has opened in Temecula

Now that wine tasting rooms in Southern California are starting to open up again for visitors, it's time to plan an outing to some of the best wine regions less than a two-hour drive from Los Angeles. There are new twists to the wine tour experience in Santa Barbara, and surprising places with good grapes and a hidden tasting room in L.A. Just be sure to

have a designated driver if you plan on imbibing and do check operating hours on websites before heading out.

Although the historic San Antonio Winery in downtown L.A. has not reopened its tasting room doors, there is a newer spot in Chinatown that showcases wines made with local grapes. The Angeleno Wine Co. on Spring Street sources unique varietals from the Antelope Valley and Agua Dulce regions along with others. Some of the varietals include Graciano and Alicante Bouschet, but there is also rosé, grenache, and syrah. It's hard to believe, but grapes were being cultivated in Los Angeles before Napa and Sonoma, over 400 years ago.

You can delve into this history with a private tasting by appointment only on Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 6 p.m. The cost is \$15 per person for a five-wine flight and the tasting fee is waived with a two-bottle purchase.

Nearby in the downtown Arts District, Pali Wine Co. hails from the Lompoc region of the Santa Ynez Valley. The rustic tasting room near the Hauser + Wirth Gallery will save you a trip up the Central Coast to sip flights of rosé.

Deep in the Malibu Hills off Mulholland Drive, Saddlerock Ranch is a 1,000-acre winery where animals run free past the cabernet vines. The wine tasting safari in an open-air

jeep has been popular on Instagram for dates and girls trips, but there is also a wine hike that encompasses a two-hour loop. Visit the famous giraffes wandering the grounds, but you will be taking your wine to go at the end of this experience.

If you'd rather opt for an old-fashioned tasting room, Malibu Wines has a newer experience in West Hills with tastings of Semler and Saddlerock wines and Two Doughs wood-fired oven pizza on the weekends.

Keep heading north to Ventura County for a day trip to Herzog Winery in Oxnard. This unassuming spot in an industrial park holds the largest producer of kosher wines in the nation, a Mediterranean restaurant and tasting room. For wine geeks, they also offer self-guided tours of the formation vats, aging barrels and bottling process. While you're in the Oxnard area, other wine pit-stops include Magnavino Wine Cellars, Strey Cellars and Rancho Ventavo Cellars in Heritage Square.

Continue the coastal drive, up to Santa Barbara Country where your experience options are abundant for a day trip. Start by looking into a private tour with outlets such as Coastal Concierge, which will arrange excursions from sailing to equestrian, all involving wine of course. Sustainable Wine Tours

specializes trips to private estate wineries and small vineyards. And Totally Cali mixes wine with the history and culture of the region.

If you don't want to stick to a tour schedule in Santa Barbara, the Funk Zone is the perfect area for walking and wine tasting at top producers such as Margerum across from Hotel California near the beach, but it can get crowded on weekends. Play it safe by booking individual private tastings in the Presidio neighborhood downtown at Grassini Family Vineyards or Sanguis on the eastside, Folded Hills in Montecito and SAMsARA in Goleta. If you're still not comfortable venturing out, a Santa Barbara Urban Wine Trail membership card is an option. It's good for a year, which gives you time to plan ahead.

About 90 miles south of Los Angeles, the acclaimed Temecula wine region in Riverside County has come a long way. Celebrating its golden anniversary this year, dozens of wineries now dot its hilly country roads. The latest to open this year include Europa Village and Bolero Winery. The charming old town area is mixed with olive oil tasting, breweries, spice shops and restaurants that are perfect for an afternoon of exploring and wine tasting. Don't miss the South Coast Winery Resort & Spa, featuring more than 45 wine labels. ●

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