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THE WEATHER, BEVERLY HILLS		
	Friday	98° 75°
	Saturday	78° 71°
	Sunday	81° 70°
	Monday	78° 68°
	Tuesday	76° 66°
	Wednesday	75° 64°
	Thursday	77° 64°

Golden Shield Nominees Announced



Photo by Lisa Friedman Bloch
The Jack Benny House on Roxbury Drive is nominated for a Golden Shield Award.

BY OMAR REYES BENÍTEZ

The Landmark Nominations Advisory Subcommittee of the Cultural Heritage Commission met at a special meeting Aug. 7 to decide upon eight nominees for Golden Shield Cultural Recognition. The Commission will narrow the eight selections to four, which it will present to the City Council for final approval.

Golden Shield Cultural Recognition comes in the form of a plaque granted to establishments that hold cultural, historic and architectural significance to the

City of Beverly Hills. The eight locations selected by the Subcommittee are the Sergei Rachmaninoff residence, the James Stewart residence, the Jack Benny residence, Warner-Beverly Theater, Blum’s Restaurant, the Beverly Hills Nursery, Sterling Plaza and the Beverly Hills Speedway.

Rachmaninoff was a world-renowned Russian pianist, conductor and composer who lived and died at his Beverly Hills home on 610 North Alpine Drive. He is remembered as one of the greatest composers and musical revolutionaries of the Romantic Era,

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Residents Invited to Sign Tribute Book for Queen Elizabeth II



Queen Elizabeth II

BY BIANCA HEYWARD

In a tribute to Queen Elizabeth II, Britain’s longest-reigning monarch who died Sept. 8 at the age of 96, the local British Consulate will provide a memorial book for mourners to sign. The book will contain photos of Queen Elizabeth II, with pages of space for individuals to write messages. It will be publicly accessible in the lobby of its Los Angeles office (2029 Century Park East) beginning Sept. 9 for 10 days. ●

BHUSD Board Takes Up Diverse Issues at Meeting

BY BIANCA HEYWARD

With recent weeks marked by scorching temperatures and heat waves, concerns about children playing on hot asphalt in unshaded school playgrounds was one of many issues taken up at the Sept. 6 Beverly Hills Unified School District (BHUSD) Board of Education meeting. While the board approved asphalt repairs at Beverly Vista Middle School (BVMS), Hawthorne Elementary, and an asphalt project at BVMS, the board directed staff to look into the possibility of adding green space to provide shade over blacktop areas.

“As most of you know, the south part of Beverly Vista is basically all blacktop or asphalt,” said a parent during public comment. “Except for that small part, which is the green field, there is very little or almost no natural shade in that area.”

With middle school sports starting up at BVMS and more foot traffic, Superintendent Dr. Michael Bregy said staff are already in talks with the PTA to address the shade issue. Board President Mary Wells also suggested forming a sustainability advisory group to incorporate more greenery and shady areas on district campuses. “I think that there is definitely reason to think about the lack of green space and shade at Beverly Vista Middle School, and other schools, but BVMS really seems to be hit very much so,” board member Amanda Stern said. “It would be

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Fire Chief Greg Barton Discusses Emergency Preparedness

BY OMAR REYES BENÍTEZ

In conjunction with National Preparedness Month, the City of Beverly Hills is holding an informational meeting for the “JUST IN CASE BH” program. The meeting is part of an effort to excite and educate the community about the importance of taking care of one another. The informational event will take place on Sept. 15 at Greystone Mansion, which is located at 905 Loma Vista Drive in Beverly Hills.

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Best Late Summer Getaways from Beverly Hills



Photo courtesy of GetMyBoat

Marina Del Rey Sailboating

BY CAROLE DIXON

With international travel still in a state of flux, you might want to stick closer to home during the last few weeks of summer. Here are five ideas that will feel like a vacation but are only a few hours drive, or less, from Beverly Hills.

Marina del Rey

Sail away from the record-setting heat from the always-popular Marina del Rey. Its large harbor holds a host of sailing options for everything from whale watching to watersports, parties and sunset cruises. To charter one of these vessels, **GetMyBoat** has over 130 rentals and water experiences ranging from pontoons and wind power sailboats to luxury yachts. But cruising the California coast isn't all the company offers, jet skis, kayaks and stand up paddle boarding are also available.

The average cost of a boat charter is about \$250 per hour in Marina del Rey, but you can find boating experiences on **GetMyBoat** for less than \$100, and most of the boat rentals are charters that come with a USCG-licensed captain, so you can kick back and relax while cruising around Marina del Rey.

According to Val Streif, Marketing Manager of **GetMyBoat**, "Boating is a top activity right now because it's bringing people together to enjoy the outdoors in a relaxing way and it's the perfect multi-generational family activity." In addition, she sites Marina del Rey as a top location because there's always a good chance you'll see wildlife, including dolphins, whales, and sea lions. "Seeing a sunset from a boat is also a special experience,

and you can cruise up to Santa Monica or venture to Venice Beach, two popular locations that are easily accessible by boat from Marina del Rey," she said.

Before or after your chartered cruise, stop for brunch, drinks or dinner at the newly revamped **SALT** restaurant overlooking the harbor where you can order oysters, caviar and cocktails. Other recent local dining developments include **KazuNori** for sushi, **HiHo** burgers and **UOVO** for pasta, plus **Alfred Coffee** from Beverly Hills and West Hollywood is opening nearby.

Another popular summer activity is bike riding near the beach, and just up the coast in Santa Monica, **Shutters** and **Casa del Mar** hotels offer bikes for their guests. Cruise along the boardwalk which is easily accessible and the staff will even set up a picnic lunch right in the sand with cushions, tables, umbrellas, charcuterie snacks, sandwiches and real coconut water - among other treats.

If you desire a hit of wellness, Malibu has a new destination, **Rafi Lounge**, for sound baths, meditation and classes, but you must be a member to enjoy the Pacific Ocean views from the lawn.

Santa Barbara

Of course, you can rent boats and bike ride along the California coast in Santa Barbara. Make sure to visit **Stearns Wharf**, California's oldest wooden working wharf. The wharf celebrates its 150th anniversary with a festive party on Oct. 8 (if you want to plan ahead), or be sure to visit during Wharf Wednesdays on the first Wednesday of each month, to take advantage of special restaurant deals and live

music.

Over the summer, Santa Barbara **Botanic Garden** opened The Backcountry, a four-acre outdoor adventure space for kids. Located along Mission Creek, it features activities such as fort building, fallen log obstacle courses, waterfalls, a maze, hikes through different habitats and herb gathering.

If you're up for a hike, try the **Mesa Trail** near the new visitors center with informational kiosks opened within the UC Santa Barbara North Campus Open Space. Here you can explore a vast 136-acre coastal wetlands area that includes grasslands to ocean bluffs. This area has a free public parking lot, open from dawn to dusk, at 6975 Whittier Drive in Goleta.

Also, earlier this year, the **Santa Barbara Zoo** opened the Australian Walkabout, a 15,000-square-foot habitat designed to transport guests "Down Under," where they can walk among the wallabies, kangaroos and emus.

If interior design and shopping is your passion, the Summerland area has become a go-to destination for chic home decor and antiques, including **Field + Fort**, **The Well**, **Porch and Garde**. Recently, a new outpost for British-born designer Rachel Ashwell's **Shabby Chic**, a new **Home Crush** showroom (an extension from its downtown Santa Barbara shop and design studio), and a new takeover of **The Big Yellow House** by **Big Daddy's Antiques** featuring custom furniture, rugs and rotating art.

For wine tasting, you will not need a designated driver for the nearly 30 member wineries, many within walking distance of each other and downtown beaches, on the **Santa Barbara Urban Wine Trail**. At least six new tasting rooms are opening and three others are on the move or expanding as of 2022. **Frequency Wine Co.** moved to a historic courtyard

surrounded by Spanish Colonial Revival architecture and lush foliage in the Presidio Neighborhood. **Kunin Wines** has a new location in downtown Santa Barbara with a focus on sparkling wines and rosé, along with education and cheese pairings in partnership with **The Cheese Shop**.

Santa Barbara Winery, the oldest winery in Santa Barbara County, moved to a new tasting room location in the Funk Zone and **Pali Wine Co.** opened a second location in this area as well, and you will not need a designated driver to explore this area on foot.

For dinner, **Rare Society** is a new throw-back steakhouse (also in the Funk Zone) inspired by Las Vegas that features large format steak platters for sharing and craft cocktails. At the Kimpton Canary Hotel just off State Street, **Finch & Fork** has been revamped with a sleek modern look and a pedigreed new executive chef Craig Riker who makes upscale comfort fare. If you find yourself in Montecito, a new sushi experience just opened at the Rosewood Miramar hotel. **AMA Sushi** is an intimate 13 seat bar offering one omakase pairing seating each evening or an à la carte menu with outdoor seating as well.

Huntington Beach

Head down the coast to Huntington Beach aka Surf City USA where you will find 9.5 miles of sandy flat beach and great waves due to the currents around Catalina. This area is also home to the International Surfing Museum, the **Paséa Hotel & Spa** right next to the pier where you can schedule an exfoliating body treatment with ginger oil at the Balinese spa, have rooftop drinks at the **Waterfront Beach Resort** or listen to music and mingle at **The Bungalow** by the same owners as the original in Santa Monica. Think of this area as a more accessible alternative to Laguna Beach and it's also closer to L.A.



Photo by Jessy Lynn Perkins courtesy of Visit Santa Barbara

Stearns Wharf in Santa Barbara

Oceanside

After decades as just a pit stop on the way to San Diego, the profile and popularity of this once overlooked beach town is booming. There are destination hotels, museums, Michelin recognized restaurants, a buzzing craft-beer scene and close proximity to the beach and **LEGOLAND** in Carlsbad, which is continually a top draw for families year-round.

“Oceanside’s approach to self-improvement over the last decade has been about celebrating its history, preserving its unique character and introducing thoughtful new experiences that highlight the creativity and innovation of its locals,” said Leslee Gaul, CEO, Visit Oceanside. “The combination [of new experiences] has made this a place where people want to come, hangout and immerse themselves in the Oside vibe.”

The Surf Girl Pro Championship competition is held each fall on the beach near the Oceanside Pier right in front of the new surf-themed **Mission Pacific Hotel** and sister property **The Seabird Resort** with a Cape Cod esthetic. On the grounds, a draw for film buffs is the 1887 bungalow, known as The Graves House, that was used as a key location in the original “**Top Gun**” movie. The space is now a HIGH-pie concept serving gourmet sweet and savory hand pies made with fruit or cheese and choice of dipping sauce. You can also find memorabilia from the movie, including a refurbished Kawasaki Ninja ZX90 0 Motorcycle, identical to the one Tom Cruise rode in the film. Other nostalgic Americana touches include vintage furniture, one-of-a-kind needle-point installations from artist Mary Lou Marks.

For dining on-site, try the new Chef’s Table experience at **Valle**, a Guadalupe Valley Kitchen, helmed by one of Baja’s most acclaimed Chefs, Roberto Alcocer. Upstairs, **The Rooftop Bar** at Mission Pacific has also launched a new menu of shared plates and locally inspired cocktails, with a portion of sales of “The Jetty” cocktail, named for one of Oceanside’s most iconic breaks, going to benefit USA Surfing’s elite training programs.

If that activity is a little too rambunctious for you, walk over to the new pool-side sound baths at **The Seabird Resort**.

Or, take advantage of the new vintage Rambler camper and Surf Concierge service set up on the beach providing guests with beverages and snacks, sand toys, water activities, umbrellas, towels and lounge chairs for the perfect beach day.

If you did come for the surf, check out the incredible art collection curated by the **Oceanside Museum of Art** across both hotels before signing up for a surf valet experience and private lessons, with **North Country Surf Academy** for an opportunity to surf alongside professional surfer and third-generation Oceanside resident, Duran Barr.

A short stroll away, there are a few cool developments in Oceanside for coffee and boutique shopping such as the **The Rising Co. - A Maker's Collective** or **Tremont Collective**, which has surf shops, Communal coffee and flower shop, along with **Shootz Fish + Beer** for local brews and tacos.

Around town, **The Plot** has recently introduced the Thursday Night Live Music series. Every Thursday from 6:30-8:30 p.m., guests can enjoy an evening of free live music on the patio, surrounded by the restaurant’s regenerative garden. The goal is to share a no-cost experience to provide a space to connect with neighbors, expand cultural experiences and support local talent, all the while enjoying a delicious plant-based fare from the restaurant.

At award-winning **Wrench & Rodent** – the unorthodox sushi and Japanese izakaya focused on total utilization – Chef-owner Davin Waite and his team have launched a dry-aged fish program, which ensures a responsible and sustainable model with minimal waste. Expect traditional dry-aging techniques with various species such as Bluefin, Pacifico bass, kampachi, and salmon.

Just over the Buena Vista Lagoon, which separates Oceanside from Carlsbad, State Street siblings **Campfire** and Michelin-starred **Jeune et Jolie** have just released new summer menus under the creative direction of Executive Chef Eric Bost. And if you find it hard to snag a reservation at Jeune et Jolie, try the smaller rotating **Menu du Bar**, available at the bar and lounge where walk-ins are welcome. ●



Photo courtesy of Santa Barbara Botanic Garden/Visit Santa Barbara
The Backcountry Hiking activities



Photo courtesy of The Plot
Outdoor dining at The Plot



Photo courtesy of Jim B. for Marina del Rey Hotel
Salt at the Marina del Rey Hotel