

**Attention: Mike Bonin
The Venice Community
is Demanding a
Town Hall Meeting
Concerning Development
We Demand an Immediate
ICO (Interim Control Ordinance)
throughout all of Venice**



**June
2015
#404**



Proposed development for 601 OFW

A High-Tech Squeeze and Gridlock at OFW and Sunset Threaten to Take Venice Down

By John Stein

An office building for general and internet technology uses has been proposed for 601 Ocean Front Walk (OFW) at Sunset Avenue. It would have 22,738sf of office space on second and third floors, 5254sf of retail across the front at OFW ground level with parking behind, and two more levels of subterranean parking. It would have an 800sf live/work apartment at the back of the second floor, which by the developer's statement, allows him to qualify the project as "mixed use residential/commercial" and gain a 50% development intensity bonus. Project architect Glen Irani of Venice tells us the apartment would be used for a night watchman. In the end, 82% of the total leasable space would be for office and office security uses, 18% for retail. Essentially, it's an office building.

While there are many objectionable details to this project (the elegant design, to my mind, not among them), what I want to focus on are office uses taking over OFW and how this building would gridlock the surrounding neighborhood. First the gridlock.

It may be difficult for outsiders to recognize but this lot holds a keystone position at the center of a quarter-mile, 6-block long section of OFW between Rose and Brooks Avenues and is the last remaining undeveloped lot in the area. The pressure this proposed project would exert on the system of 20ft wide alleys behind it would extend throughout the neighborhood. It would swamp local parking, clog the alleys when one truck can't get past another one unloading, and hold the entire community in its grip. The subject property now serves as a parking lot and relieves the severe parking

deficit for blocks around. It is where people park when they visit Walk Street residents, where delivery and construction vehicles can find temporary parking, where nearby institutions can lease parking required for their operations, and where beachgoers park. It is the neighborhood's safety valve.

This project could turn that 6-block length of OFW into an access nightmare of traffic and congestion for residents and visitors alike, and incidentally for office occupants as well. This project provides just 91 parking spaces for an anticipated 404 occupants and most will not find parking for blocks around. Those that do will displace others. The project supplies extra bicycle parking and presumably would organize shuttle busses for its employees, as does Google nearby, but the immediate local parking crunch would only be exacerbated by this project. All sorts of nearby large structures built before WWII depend on being able to park cars here. The Ellison Apartments, 615 OFW adjacent to the South, Thornton Towers, Phoenix House, Figtree Restaurant, Su Casa at Venice Beach, Cadillac Hotel, Venice Beach Suites, none of which have parking of their own and some of which establishments depend for their business licenses on existing contractual arrangements for parking on this lot, all would feel the strangling squeeze. Additional lesser residential structures dotted without parking among the Walk Streets and having 2 or 3 stories of small apartments, all count on the safety valve of this parking lot. Much is at stake here.

Extending out from this section of OFW, the 13-block section between Rose and Windward Avenues is the heart of Venice Beach, with its direct proximity to the

sand and views of the ocean not blocked by athletic courts or parking lots. This is where Los Angelinos and visitors from afar come by bus and by car to commune with the beach and the ocean, enjoy the free-wheeling carnival atmosphere, feel the fresh ocean breezes, sense the absence of cars, and be at home in their souls.

If this project were allowed to go forward, its precedent would encourage high tech office redevelopment all along OFW because high tech pays higher rents than other uses and because most of the OFW lots are similarly zoned. Office uses do already exist along OFW in similarly designated Community Commercial lots, but this proposed project would be the first to be developed under the Venice Local Coastal Program Land Use Plan, commonly referred to as the "Venice Specific Plan", enacted in 2001. With this project as precedent, the rest of OFW would likely soon become a high-tech office campus. The cumulative effect on traffic and parking would be horrific. (While the section of OFW immediately surrounding the project has 20ft wide Walk Street feeder alleys, 15ft wide feeder alleys are common elsewhere.) The beach vibe would metamorphose into that of an office park. Venice Beach would cease to exist as we know it. It is a sad and frightening prospect, but this project could bust the neighborhood at its seams, destroy it, and take the entire OFW and Venice Beach with it.

The Specific Plan states: "The Community Commercial designation is intended to provide focal points for local shopping, civic and social activities and for visitor-

— Continued on page 7

LAPD Murder Is Followed by Bonin's Retaliation

By Greta Cobar

It is now a month after the LAPD killed Brendon Glenn in front of the Townhouse in Venice. Still no questions have been answered, no information was released, and the public has still not seen the video of the crime — which the LAPD is holding on to.

Dylan Andre, a musician who performs on OFW, was on Windward and Pacific a little after 11pm on that tragic night of May 5. The atmosphere was jolly and care-free, as more people than usual were out for a Tuesday night, celebrating Cinco de Mayo.

The two gunshots that were fired by officer Clifford Proctor startled the animated crowd filling the bars and spilling onto the street. According to Andre, the fun was instantly killed as everyone quietly walked away, in shock. "There were no screams, no scuffles, no lingering: Everyone was like 'Let's get the fuck out of here now'", said Andre.

Quite a few drinkers were outside the Townhouse smoking, socializing or bar-hopping when the gunshots were heard. According to someone who was present, everyone was surprised. Even though a gunshot sounds nothing like a Taser, initially the crowd thought that Brendon had been Tasered.

The 911 call that brought officers Proctor and Jonathan Kawahara to the Townhouse relayed that Brendon was harassing the customers in front of the Townhouse. Even though the Townhouse people sustain that it wasn't them that called the cops, circumstantial evidence indicates otherwise. According to a

worker at the Townhouse, there were two bouncers there that night: a White guy and a Black guy.

Brendon was drinking, feeling sad, lonely and homesick. He was doing some kind of pan-handling around the Townhouse and probably just shooting the breeze with others, drinking and celebrating Cinco de Mayo. When the cops arrived, Brendon got into some type of altercation with Proctor. That altercation resulted in some type of knee injury for the cop and the death of Brendon, who was shot twice.

The May 7 Town Hall meeting packed upwards of 500 concerned citizens, media and cops into the Westminster school auditorium. Bonin was weak, didn't know what to say, was confused and overwhelmed. The public walked all over him and booed him with passion. Oh, Poor Little Bonin!

Yes, the poor little guy had no other choice than to retaliate. And so he gathered all of the little toys the spoiled brat has at his disposal, like hazmat vehicles and dozens of little guys in police uniforms, grabbed his ball and started running with a conniving smile while repeatedly screaming: "Ha, ha, ha, I got the ball!"

Indeed he wasted no time: on March 8, less than 12 hours after the Town Hall meeting, the Friday morning \$7,500 OFW clean-up was more

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May 20 Memorial

Photo: Louis Minatti





Beachhead Collective Staff:

Eric Ahlberg, Anthony Castillo, Greta Cobar, Don Geagan, Mary Getlein, Ronald McKinley, Krista Schwimmer, Alice Stek.

The FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD is published monthly by the Beachhead Collective as a vehicle for the people of Venice to communicate their ideas and opinions to the community at large. The Beachhead encourages anyone to submit news stories, articles, letters, photos, poetry or graphics of interest to the Venice community.

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To submit material, include your name and telephone number. Anonymous material will not be printed, but your name will be withheld on request. No payment is made for material used.

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Thank You, Venice!

The time has come for me to step away from the Beachhead and give others the opportunity to rise to the occasion.

I have been part of the Collective continuously for the past six years. For the past three years my duties escalated to include doing layout, keeping track of sustainers and ads, and facilitating meetings. While at the same time I continued to write, do distribution and attend meetings. Oh, and I also held a full-time job.

It's been a bumpy ride through which I grew from both positive and negative experiences. I am proud of each and every edition of the Beachhead that we put out monthly, for the past six years – we never missed a month! That accomplishment involves getting enough content to fill the paper, which ranged from 12 to 16 pages; raising enough money to pay the printer; and distributing all 8,000 copies.

As you all know, the Beachhead is never perfect and always late. With all its faults, I am especially proud of the past three years of Beachheads because I managed to put it together, and I know I did my best. It wasn't that things didn't come up (or they weren't already going on), but I made the Beachhead my priority.

For now I feel that I had put in my time and effort into this beautiful, historical Venice community endeavor that is valued and unique. I gave the current Collective two month notice of my departure, and now that the time has come, I continue to look forward to many, many more Beachheads to come.

Thank you, Venice, for allowing me to be part of this great adventure.

Sincerely,
Greta Cobar

Dear BH,

I'm an everyday regular on the Ocean Front Walk. One day a couple years ago a very sweet gal rode up on a cool bike and asked me if I read the Beachhead? I had an old "Free Venice" button on and we talked about Venice and the newspaper and she invited me to submit something. Her name was Greta and in the last two years she inspired me and other friends to submit poems, art and articles. I know many people on the OFW and the ONLY member of the Beachhead staff that anyone knows is Greta. Even those who don't know her name know her as that Beachhead gal on the wild bikes! A few Venice old timers like me remember Jim Smith, but he moved up north. The day to day work and compiling it was left up to dear Greta. She slaved and ran around for interviews and came and picked up and edited articles for those submitting work. She was a one woman dynamo for the Beachhead! All for no pay and little recognition! The founders of this paper, John & Anna Haag would be totally proud of her contributions! I have since met a couple other Beachhead members but I rarely see any of them on the OFW and nobody knows them in connection with this paper. The one and ONLY is Greta the Great!

The REAL everyday Venice people are sad that she is leaving because of petty criticism from other Beachhead members. Attacks on the paper's content are one thing, but this paper will suffer greatly because of needless personal attacks. I worked on the Beachhead 35 years ago and I also quit when a couple new members began editing my work. Greta convinced me to try again and it has been a lot of work but was fun with Greta putting up with my many rewrites. Let us hope Greta will reconsider leaving and the Beachhead staff will stay out of other member's personal business. I hope everyone will cry out, "Greta, we love you, please don't go!"

– Marty & Pharaoh



Thanks for your generous donations!

- Ronald Rouda
- Linda Laisure and Helen Alland
- Richard Abcarian
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- Charles Bloomquist
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- Kristina Olsen
- Garry Harris

T-Shirt Fraud on OFW

Dear Beachhead:

A total of eight T-shirt shops owned by the same person have opened on OFW recently. They sell the same generic merchandise, which is offensive, especially to women.

Owned by Liran Azoulay, an Israeli immigrant, these businesses were able to multiply so quickly because of the higher-than-average rent payments he offered to the owners: upwards of \$10,000/month. Vendors of stores that own the lease of their shops were approached and offered upwards of \$100,000 to sell the remainder of their leases.

When contemplating how someone can afford such high rent payments and enormous buying-out sums, the word on OFW is that some type of money laundering is behind the operation.

This business scheme had the ripple effect of raising all OFW shops' rent payments. The remaining old-time vendors are considering selling out while worrying whether they'll be able to make it through the summer.

Several tourists reported buying a shirt for \$20 to have their credit card charged several hundred dollars. Because this is a civil case, as opposed to a criminal one, the LAPD won't help them. And the tourists don't have the time or the know-how to go through the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs to sue the unscrupulous business owner. Several warnings against these custom T-shirt businesses have been published online, on sites such as Trip Advisor and YouTube.

What the LAPD is required to do is not allow these eight stores to play music with offensive, X-rated lyrics. They tend to do this loudly and obnoxiously, with no fear. Also, they stay open long after all other stores on OFW have closed: as late as 11pm. It was reported that some of the workers live in the stores, which is of course illegal.

We call on the LAPD to address and investigate this high-level crime that is infesting all OFW businesses and customers, local and foreigners alike. And we call on you, locals, to boycott these eight businesses.

Wishing they go away soon,
Rachel Bloomfield

Below: One of eight generic and fraudulent T-shirt shops on OFW – this one where Sea Horse, ran by Barbara Duffy for 15 years, used to be



Attention LAPD: We Need You to Defend Us

Dear Beachhead:

The person pictured to the left, selling CDs on OFW, is extremely aggressive towards the people around him. He does not respect your personal space and conducts in-your-face panhandling.

His behavior makes all of us who walk down OFW uncomfortable and ultimately annoyed. It also gives a bad image of Venice to the tourists.

Why are LAPD officers so busy all day long harassing people for minor, insignificant infractions while this guy comes into Venice every morning to conduct the most aggressive panhandling on OFW, undisturbed?

Some people get a ticket just for being a few inches out of the boxes marked on OFW, yet this guy travels the entire OFW, from Navy to Venice, all day long, unabated.

It is time that the LAPD did something that we would all appreciate.

– Shane Williams

LAGOON KILLERS

By John Davis

The L.A. County Board of Supervisors are on a rampage. They want to wipe out the natural virtues of natural coastal environments, replacing them with sterile flood control projects. First, the County supported California State Parks as it went after Malibu Lagoon; surfer Athena N. Shlien witnessed it.

“As far as I can tell it looks like another sterilized version of nature, the lagoons at Zuma and Topanga have also had work done but the wildlife never seems to return as it once was or at least it will take several decades to recover... They ought to leave nature be and only use funds to acquire new land...do no harm!!!! ”

Like State Parks, the County Supervisors have established a pattern and practice of stealth advertising to market bad projects. This means they are representing something they are not really selling. They really want you to buy something else, without knowing about it, something you did not bargain for.

Their current target is our local Oxford Lagoon, adjacent to Washington Blvd.

In the case of Oxford the Supervisors disguised the public value of the Lagoon as it stood. The overstated lie is that it would be a better place.

The word “restoration” is bounced about by political types like a ball. The correct term for projects like these is “creation”. There is no restoration, whatsoever. It is all creation of an environment that was not there, but the making of something new.

The County paints a euphoric vision of lush native plants, walkways and lighting, with fences and places to observe wildlife, of course. But, they failed to fully measure the costs and necessary authorities.

Oxford Lagoon has been a place of quiet refuge. Home to a variety of wading birds, and a place for people who walked the silent path beneath the canopy of mature trees, the place was valued by neighbors. The black crown night herons’ voice could be heard drifting through the evening. This spring, colorful, delicate Monarch Butterflies were documented over-wintering here. They require a peaceful surrounding and very small things can disrupt their survival. A large bird, an Osprey, surprised everyone when it began perching high above the lagoon, seeking food in the cool waters below.

Then, Supervisor Knabe’s favored chainsaws leveled all of it, including the majestic raptors high perch.

Later that day, other local birds paddled around the lagoon confused and panicked, without shelter. The last



Photo by: Jonathan Coffin

tree, the tallest was left standing for a couple of days where the Osprey continued to perch, until after a California Coastal Commission meeting.

The Commissioners asked the County to at least keep that one tree. Within days, the County cut it too, demonstrating its utter disregard for the value of the existing environment, as if it was never there.

They said the trees were sick, so they had to chain-saw all of them. Or, that they were not native, ignoring the existing ecological value of such large stands. The monarch butterflies valued them enough to try using them to over-winter.

Oxford Lagoon was designated by the United States Congress as a bird sanctuary in partial compensation for the creation of a man-made boat harbor. U.S. Public Law 780, the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1954 as implemented by Congress, spells this out plainly. Douglas Fay, a local resident zeroed in on this important fact.

Yet the Supervisors, led by Don Knabe, continue to call it the Oxford Flood Control Basin. They have disregarded the will of the Congress, blatantly, and without repercussion. In fact, the County was required

to deed all lands, easements, and rights of way to the United States, including Oxford Lagoon, but did not. The deed was never recorded with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, as required by federal law. It appears the County has been defrauding the United States for decades, and Oxford is only the most recent visible, and painful example.

Supervisor Knabe wants to please developers the county leases to in Marina del Rey. This is how he does it.

The public can expect traffic delays, jams and equipment moving on and off the site for months to come. As the County drains and dredges the lagoon, bulldozers will grade and change the area while belching smoke and clanking around on what used to be a peaceful public place.

Douglas Fay accurately predicts the County’s next move:

“It’s all propaganda = ongoing habitat loss and species extinction. Ballona is next.”

VIDEO LINK: <http://bit.ly/1Hh1nzU>

Bonin Unable to Solve Venice-Centric Issues

Dear Beachhead:

In response to Krista Schwimmer’s assessment of the job Councilman Mike Bonin is doing (*Mike Bonin, “Technically” Doing His Job*), this longtime government bureaucrat and political insider is simply long on rhetoric and short in results.

A perennial “guide on the side” instead of a “sage on the stage”, Bonin’s leadership style or lack of one is evident for all to see!

Bonin is clearly bright and articulate, which makes his tenure as an elected official so puzzling and disappointing to so many Venetians!

As a resident insider who served as a staffer to a member of the United States House of Representatives as well as his predecessor on the Los Angeles City Council, Bonin seems lost in translating rhetoric into substantial public policy, especially in the area of crime and homelessness here in Venice.

What you would consider his most reliable supporters within the progressive movement in the area of affordable housing, they too have become inpatient and almost hostile to his lack of action, solutions or support of the homeless.

His inability to engage the community in a serious fashion is disturbing as he spends more time trying to create controlled environments versus simply listening and learning from those who elected him to solve complicated and challenging issues that are truly Venice centric in scope and detail.

It was painful to watch him let the latest Town Hall meeting deteriorate into a shouting match of angry residents searching for answers as well as the truth.

Why didn’t he moderate the event?

It was clearly his idea to stage this event, but political miscalculations on his part saw this three-hour slugfest revel in the politically absurd.

As the only elected official in the room, it was his responsibility to grab the bull by the horns and let everyone know one thing, he was in charge and that the buck stopped with him.

That he would take responsibility and he would listen.

That did not occur.

Instead, eroding public confidence will likely continue because of the utter failure of that evening to resolve anything at all.

I don’t know Bonin, but his approach to governing and reaching out to those who do not agree is not working.

Surrounding yourself with an echo chamber doesn’t get the job done and never will.

Sincerely,

Nick Antonicello



APPEARING AT:

The Electric Lodge

1416 Electric Avenue Venice CA 90291

June 20th 8:00

with Pete Snell on Guitar

www.KristinaOlsen.net

A YEN FOR A HEN IN A PEN

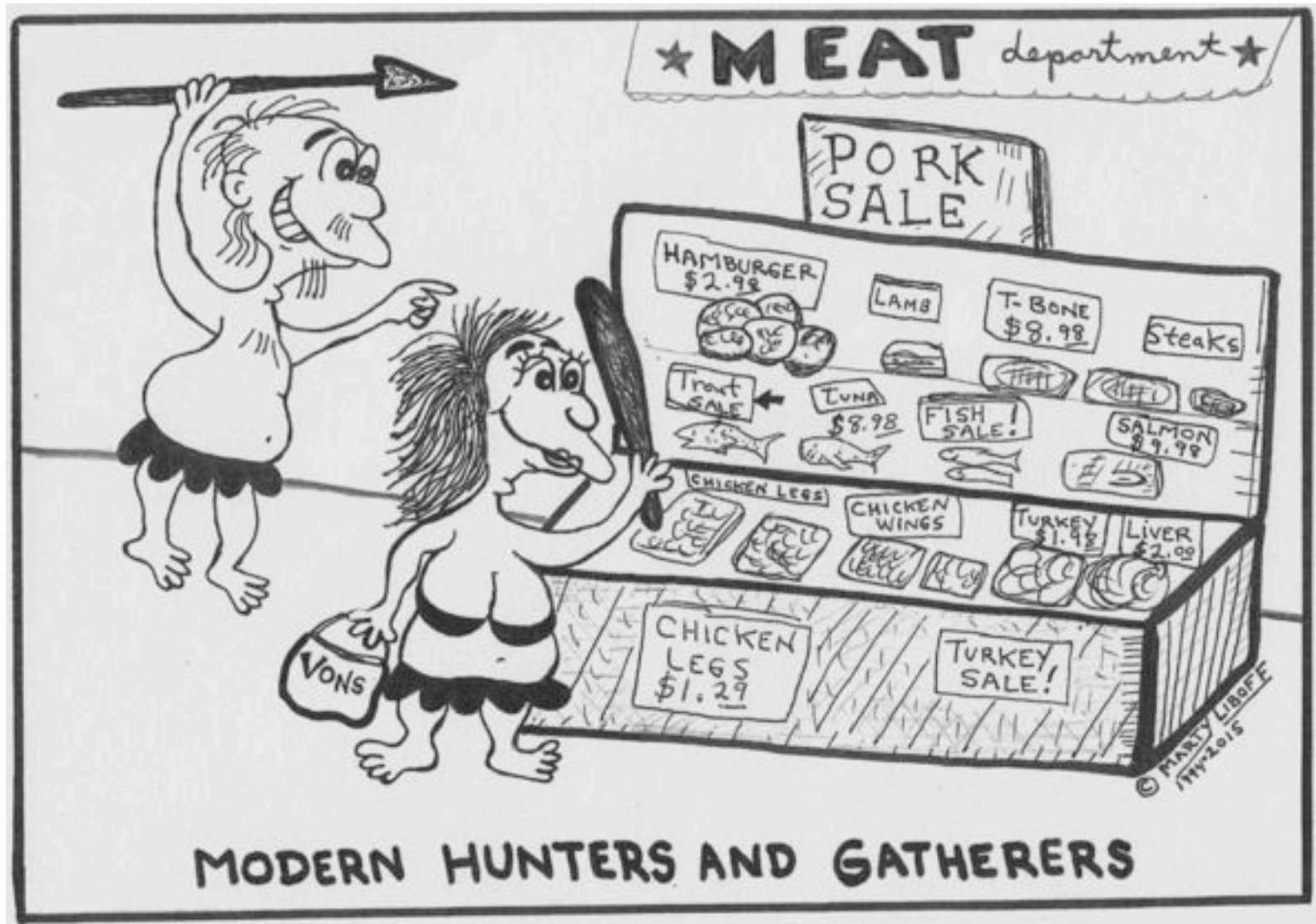
By Marty Liboff

As a small child, my mom used to scare me with gory stories and ghastly books that had horrible photos of dead Jews in concentration camps. She would cry, “See what the Nazis did to our family!”

I remember around 1953 when I was about five there was a shop on Main St. between Venice and Ocean Park that sold live chickens. My mom took me there a couple times to buy a chicken for dinner. Sometimes she would get some unformed eggs that I loved. The shells hadn't formed yet and they were just yolks with a deep gold color. Sometimes there were tiny eggs all attached. They were sweeter than regular eggs and my mom used to fry them up with some chicken fat and salt and garlic. The butcher would sell them in a plastic bag or sometimes we got lucky and the hen my mom selected for execution would have eggs inside and the butcher would ask my mom if she wanted them. She would always say yes and also take the neck, gizzard, feet and liver. We were very poor although at the time I didn't realize it, so every scrap of food was important.

Usually we bought food down the block at the Wonder market that was in the ornate old Parkhurst building which is still there at the NW corner of Main St. and Pier Ave. The Wonder market had already murdered and packaged chicken and meat that was cheaper than the fresh kill chicken store. Back then there were several markets by the beach in Venice and Ocean Park. People in our neighborhood didn't have to drive anywhere since everything you needed was right here. We weren't sold out to the tourist dollar yet like we are now with fancy restaurants, yuppie bars, expensive clothing shops, “tsayske” junk stores and Asian nail and foot massage shops on Main St. There was a Safeway market at Main and Hill St. where American Apparel is today and other markets on Pier Ave. and on Windward Ave. Barr's market was north of Ocean Park Blvd. There were small markets on the Ocean Front Walk like Ada's on Raymond Ave. Back then the Ocean Front Walk continued from Venice to beyond the Santa Monica Pier! The great L&A market & deli was just south of Rose Ave. next to where the Venice Ale House is now. The L & A market had everything from beer & wine to corned beef, pastrami and pickles in a wood barrel. It had a big, red Coca Cola ice box with cold sodas out in front like many little grocery stores of the time. You would fish around to the bottom to get the coldest soda. Now it is a T-shirt shop. Of course the local's favorite, Henry's market on Dudley Ave. was unfortunately kicked out a couple years ago.

I remember the live chicken butcher shop well since as a young boy I was both fascinated and appalled by the goings on there. My mom took me there on my first visit when I was especially young and innocent. When you walked in the shop there were about 30 to 100 chickens piled high in small coops or cages. Sometimes there were a couple ducks. On the other side was a regular glass deli case with chicken parts in metal pans. In



the back was a door to the inner chamber of doom. The back room was dimly lit with a light bulb hanging on a wire above a wood torture table that you could easily see.

The old but brawny butcher asked my mom what she'd like. My mom told him the sex and size and age of the victim. My mom asked for, “A hen, not too young, not too old and not too expensive.” The butcher showed my mom a few cages to pick from at her cheaper price, then he went back to work as we selected.

The first time I went there my mom said to me, “So, which one shall we get?” I began checking them out. I looked and looked and talked to them in English and chickeneese and tried to pick out the prettiest colors and cutest tops. One hen had nice bright eyes and seemed to give me a happy wink and I chose her. What a nice pet this one will be! I couldn't wait to get her home to show my brother so we can name her. I thought of names for her like Matilda, Chickeneta or Henrieta. I asked my mom if we needed a cage too? She said, “No, I don't think we'll need one.” My mom seemed curiously surprised by my question. Well, I figured that chickens don't fly good, so she can just walk around our house and backyard without a cage. That was cool. I'd seen it on many cowboy movies where the chickens just roam free on the farm.

My mom yelled to the butcher, “This one!”

The big ugly Nazi guard came over and opened the cage. The little feathered Jew began to squawk and wiggle and squiggle but the Nazi with a giggle grabbed her by the neck and took her in the back. The door was open and I could see – he took a big wood mallet and smack, smack on the chicken's noggin, and I almost shit & pee! He had a Bunsen burner that he turned up high and he

stuck my pet chicken into to fry off its feathers, but she wouldn't die!

As soon as the flames hit the Juden, she awoke with a terrible squawking and gagging and fluttering of wings. The butcher twisted her neck and she finally gave up its chicken ghost. He burned off the feathers and plucked out a few more. I kept hoping the chicken would awake and bite him on the nose and run away. He took out a giant cleaver and whack went the head into a box below. Whack, whack, whack – the neck, breast open, feet off. At that moment I realized my pretty chicken wasn't going to be like Bugs Bunny and Daffy Duck, always getting away from Elmer Fudd who was trying to kill them. Instead of Bugs and Daffy laughing at Elmer there was the cruel reality of blood and chicken guts.

The butcher came out to the counter and threw it on a scale and wrapped it in paper and a brown paper bag. My mom paid and out the door we went to go home and cook roast chicken for dinner. For some strange reason I didn't want to eat any chicken that night? I also never seemed to want to go back to that little shop down the block, even when my mom asked if I'd like to go and select another chicken. And for some time after that when I even walked by that shop I was afraid that the butcher was going to run out and chop my head off with that giant meat cleaver and toss my head in that bloody box with chicken heads pecking at my eyes and looking like a Jew corpse in one of my mother's holocaust books...

Six Degrees of Separation

I had the honor of attending the Los Angeles Unified School District Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. I was there to accept the award and induction of former Venice High student Wally O'Connor, Class of 1921. Yes, 1921! When a person is inducted, they try to contact the person or family members. If they can't find anyone, they contact the school, which is how I got involved.

Wally is considered to be one of the greatest, if not THE greatest, American water polo players. He was in 5 Olympics and even carried the flag into the stadium for the 1936 Hitler Olympics (Jesse Owens Games). Of great note here, Wally (on his own) did not dip the flag to Hitler. He said that the United States does not dip its flag to any nation. That's been our tradition ever since.

Anyway, I have his award and Venice High is prepared to put it in a display case, but I think his family, where ever they are, needs to have it and be told about

the honor. He died in the 1950s, but he HAS to have some family out there, no matter how distant the relation. Siblings, cousins, nieces/nephews, grandnieces/grandnephews, etc. I was told he never married, but I can't confirm that. The last bit of info I got on him was that he had moved to the Bay Area before he died, but I have not confirmed that either.

So, let's see if the idea of Six Degrees of Separation can help find his relatives. Even if you don't know him, please send this out to EVERYONE you know (even if you know they don't know him), either on Facebook or any other social network site or email lists you have. Then, ask those people to do the same and on and on. You can have people email me at: sayne812@yahoo if they have any information.

Thanks for helping,
Sayne Maza



The Rosa Parks of Venice

By Deborah Lashever

Eden Andes, with slightly silvered hair, medium length, thoughtful look on her sun-drenched face, mischievous smiles illustrating her clever ironic wit, lived in Venice Beach for many years. Intelligent, articulate, peaceful, funny; a visionary, activist, artist, animal lover and friend, she could often be found on Venice Ocean Front Walk in jeans and colorful tee shirts. Some might say she was a bit nondescript outwardly but all would agree inside she was a lioness. For years she decried the injustice of the city's continued criminalization of homeless people. She knew about it first hand. Eden Andes lived in her van.

Interestingly, the simple act of sleeping in her vehicle thrust Eden into activism. Civil rights attorney, Carol Sobel, maintains that the successful fight in December 2013 against LAMC 85.02, a discriminatory ordinance against sleeping in vehicles, started in 2003 when Eden, faced with a "Stay Away Order" for being cited for sleeping in her vehicle, took a stand and refused to leave Venice, her beloved home.

In a recent April 22 interview, Venice civil rights attorney, John Raphling, who tried Eden's original case, concurs. "It was a case of 'well, where do you want her to sleep that she wouldn't be breaking the law'? This was a woman, by herself, and vulnerable. At least in her vehicle she had a place with four walls that she could lock. It guaranteed a certain degree of safety for her possessions and herself." At the time Venice was embroiled in a vicious battle between Venetians who understood that for a number of artists, like Eden, sleeping in vehicles was financially necessary, versus wealthier property owners--most of them new to the area--that just wanted them gone.

Sobel successfully argued to have 85.02 overturned by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in the groundbreaking case, *Desertrain vs the City of Los Angeles*. Judge Harry Pregerson stated, "For many homeless persons, their automobile may be their last major possession — the means by which they can look for work and seek social services. The City of Los Angeles has many options at its disposal to alleviate the plight and suffering of its homeless citizens. Selectively preventing the homeless and the poor from using their vehicles....should not be one of those options."

Raphling also points out that 85.02 raises serious enforcement issues. "Legally we are all guaranteed a certain amount of privacy in our vehicles," he says, "if laws criminalizing sleeping in vehicles are in place, police would necessarily need access to vehicles to determine if they are being slept in or not and that creates a slippery slope with regard to violations of constitutional rights to privacy and encouraging discriminatory practices by LAPD."

Earlier this month, City Attorney Mike Feuer penned two amended options for 85.02:

Option 1: No sleeping in any vehicle on any street in Los Angeles 9pm to 6am. \$100 first offense, \$250 second offense, \$1000 and 6 months in jail for number three – with vehicles impounded and since vehicle dwellers are usually unable to afford fees, lost, along with pets and possessions, causing more people to live on sidewalks, unprotected.

Option 2: Same as above, except select non-residential streets would be designated for sleeping in vehicles but only accessed if vehicle dwellers complete the CES (Coordinated Entry System) registration process through already overloaded LAHSA (Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority) to obtain permits that must be renewed again and again every few months.



Photo by: Cary Lopiccolo

Currently LA city/county is focused upon processing every unhoused person through CES, a data system that gives accesses to all files anywhere in the county. The city and county argue that coordinating this data will streamline people's access to housing – which would be wonderful except for the problem is that in reality little housing is actually available, and scant functional services are either when compared to LA's 29,000 unhoused people that were recorded in the recent 2015 Homeless Count. Coordinating data will do nothing to remedy this lack.

In fact, the searing April 2015 report by Miguel A. Santana, City Administrative Officer, reveals that the City of Los Angeles spends more than \$100 million a year on homelessness and that, tellingly, \$87 million of that is spent on LAPD's interactions with homeless persons. The city's focus is clear.

Lack of funding is not the problem. Priorities are. For example, instead of making an inexpensive storage facility available in Venice, an estimate of \$500,000 – half a million dollars per year – is spent on forced weekly sweeps, or "clean ups," to remove belongings of Venice's homeless people, according to Councilman Mike Bonin's office recently. That doesn't leave much money for services people actually need to live with dignity – food, bathrooms, a safe place to sleep, storage, health services, showers, washing machines – and clearly illustrates the city's favoring of penalization instead of solutions.

As Raphling says, "The City needs to see housing and services as an investment and get away from the status quo of ticketing and jailing people until they disappear."

Hopefully with the shock of the new report and the creation of a City Council Ad Hoc Committee on Homelessness, priorities will change. When we finally do find a way to honor the dignity of each and every

person, Eden Andes would have been the happiest of all. But it will be way too late for Eden. She died ridden with cancer, just short of her 58th birthday, about this time last year, still living in her van in Venice.

Eden Windgate Eastin Andes
6/25/1956 - 6/22/2014

Greta Says:

Not long ago, only about six years, quite a few Venice long-term residents lived in vehicles. They were groovy – both the vehicles and the residents.

The Venice vehicularly-housed citizens cared deeply about our beautiful resort by the sea, participated in community events and local politics, and lent a hand when one was needed to set things in order.

Then Alex Thompson, a convicted felon with several past aliases (<http://bit.ly/1KQ1bLq>), made false allegations of sewage dumping in Venice, and started a campaign to rid the town of its vehicularly-housed residents.

At the same time Mark Ryavek started his own campaign with the same mission, only his tactic was restricted permit parking.

Police harassment of the vehicularly-housed Venice residents ensued and continued as a result of Alex Thompson nagging her LAPD buddies and Mark Ryavek lobbying the downtown politicians.

In no time dozens, hundreds of groovy and trustworthy long-term Venice residents had to move and take their movable homes with them, outside of Venice. For even though the rules are the same in and out of Venice, they are definitely not enforced the same.

This mass exodus created a gap in our population that was filled in no time with what we have now: heavy drug and/or alcohol addicted youths that don't take any pride in themselves or their new, temporary place of residence. They're unkept and they trash our beautiful resort by the sea. Their only concern is getting the next high, for which they're ready to lie, steal, cheat – or whatever it takes.

Not only are they a nuisance to all of us living here, but they also ruin the image of the house-less population. Before our vehicularly-housed residents were evicted through the actions of Alex Thompson and Mark Ryavek, this nuisance-causing truly transient population was not prevalent in Venice.

This is an example of what happens when two members of a community achieve some type of minimal power through unscrupulous, illegal maneuvering.

It is worth noting that what motivated me to become politically involved in Venice and to join the Beachhead Collective was this campaign to evict the vehicularly-housed Venice residents, many of who were my friends.

Living in a vehicle is better than being on the sidewalk for all involved, including the housed population. It is also more "green" and it leaves less of a footprint. It is also beneficial for all of us to have one less soul slaving for The Man. Yep, Alex Thompson and Mark Ryavek don't hold jobs either.



Brendon Glenn and the Teen Project

By Morgan Stewart

On the evening of May 5, just hours before he was shot and killed by officers from the Los Angeles Police Department, Brendon Glenn dropped by The Teen Project's PAD (Protection and Direction) Drop in Center on Windward Avenue in Venice for a Purpose Life Support Group. While there, he spoke with counselors about how he missed his family and was ready to go home. On May 6, The Teen Project would have normally begun the process of contacting Brendon's loved ones in New York with hopes of reunification. Instead, the next morning they had to reach out to his grandmother for a different reason ... his tragic and untimely death just hours before. Not knowing if she would be the first call to them, the Teen Project Founder, Lauri Burns, was somewhat relieved that they already knew. Having lost her own son just a year prior, she dreaded being the first call. She was heart struck to learn that the family was planning an upcoming trip with Brendon's three year old son to surprise him and bring him home. When the founder said the word "homeless" his grandmother gasped, "*he was not homeless? He went on his first plane trip with his best friend to see California.*" Lauri explained, it is all too often that the family is often unaware of the "real" situation.

The Teen Project, founded in 2007, arrived in Venice in 2012 to provide support for teens aging out of the foster care system and the large population of youth in crisis with immediate shelter. While some organizations provide on the street services, this group's main agenda is getting the kids off the street. Over the past three years, the team has moved 158 kids from the streets of Venice, more than any other youth provider. They send them to a safe relative, supportive housing program with an adult or to a treatment program. The team calls themselves "a parent to the parentless" and will find a youth housing situation within 48 hours of someone expressing a desire to leave the streets. Lauri Burns says, "They are our kids. They look rough, but when you talk to them and hear their stories, it crushes your heart. They are young enough that they still have a chance at life." She reflected on a young man she recently met who seemed very rough at first, but when he began to talk, she immediately recognized that he was highly educated. Over the next few minutes, she learned that his adoptive mom had recently died of cancer, leaving him alone on the cold streets in Chicago. His words to her "*Any amount of good within me was derived from my mom. I owe everything to that woman and miss her dearly.*"

Founder, Lauri Burns, was an abused kid who grew up in the Juvenile Dependency System, turned 18 and was homeless for 5 years. She was offered a warm bed and a grant for school and became an executive and raised 32 foster kids. She started The Teen Project to serve the large population of homeless youth in the Los Angeles, and particularly the Venice, area. At the PAD of Venice, youth are assessed and goals are set to help them get their life back on track. Until recently, The Teen Project was a volunteer-centric organization. Last April they

opened an 85 bed free drug treatment and vocational school for homeless and trafficked young girls. They are supported by private donations and are hitting the streets to gain support. The Venice location is volunteer centric with over 60 committed volunteers. The team is pretty low key but, with the new center and the amount of kids they are helping, they are starting to make some noise. The goal of The Teen Project is to move all of the kids off the street.

To honor Brendon's memory, The Teen Project hosted a candlelight vigil on May 7 right near the spot where he was shot dead by the LAPD. Members of The Teen Project spoke about Brendon and many of his friends shared memories of his good and generous nature, his love for his dog and his devotion to his three year old son back home. Brendon's family hosted a vigil in his memory in his hometown in New York and requested that his friends in Venice send letters, quotes and poems so that his relatives could know more about his life in California. Brendon was in Venice for approximately two months and was popular amongst the kids and staff, known as "the peacemaker" for his kindness and humor. Brendon's counselor was thrilled at the prospect of having him returning home. A prospect that would never would come to pass.

In the wake of this most recent senseless and tragic death, there is an incredible amount of anger as this local incident speaks to a much larger problem gripping this country. However, after the television crews have left and the story leaves the front pages, it is important to focus on the people and organizations that are continuing to try to help the homeless members of our community who, like Brendon, are not safe on the streets.

The death of Brendon Glenn shed light on a serious issue in the Venice community that needs to be addressed. The transition from adolescence to adulthood is difficult. Recent studies have shown that the average young person doesn't become self-sufficient until age 26. Kids exiting the juvenile dependency system do not have this option. Cut off from support at the age of 18, they often sleep on the streets huddled together.

The team says for a fraction of the cost they are spending on resource donations (food, medical, clothing), they could get them all of the kids in their program off the streets and make permanent and positive change. While there are certainly many questions still to be answered and plenty of reasons to be angry, it is important to not lose sight of organizations within our community that are trying to exact real and lasting change for our most marginalized citizens.



Above: Brendon Glenn



Above: Paying respects to Brendon at his Memorial, before the LAPD stole it in the middle of the night Photo: Greta Cobar

LAPD Murder Is Followed by Bonin's Retaliation – Continued from page 1

vicious than ever, assisted by three times the usual number of cops. Tons of things were confiscated and taken downtown while Bonin tried to feel appeased and practice his fake laugh.

Yes, following the police murder of an unarmed Black homeless 29 year old, what the Venice community was faced with was police retaliation. The \$7,500 OFW cleanups were doubled, from every other Friday, to every Friday. The daily police presence on OFW was increased significantly, probably tripled. The number of tickets and incidents of police harassment tripled as well.

But of course we ought to be happy with our elected officials who are supposed to represent us and whose salaries we are paying.

And here's a glimpse into the LAPD's investigation of the murder: on Wednesday, May 13 dozens of men dressed up in suits and ties descended on OFW, and each one of them stuck out like a sore thumb. They were LAPD detectives pretending to get witness statements about the shooting. I knew at that time that Andre was on Windward and Pacific when it happened, and he was right there on OFW singing. I pointed him out to a couple of the detectives and told them to talk to him, because he was there. A few days later I asked Andre if the detectives had approached him, and the answer was no. They weren't even pretending to try! Of course, they already have the video, but just like anybody else, they too need to somehow justify their paychecks.

So what do we do now, get the cops to wear body cameras? Ya, except that those are pointing at YOU, not them. As I stated in my article last month,

the only way to prevent something like this from happening again is to disarm the cops. It has become apparent that they are not trustworthy with a gun.

Some of them are trigger happy, others have itchy trigger fingers. They all suffer from what we call "police mentality." Quite a few of them are veterans, who were taught to kill before they even went through police training. Whether from over-sea battles or local abuse, most of them suffer from some type of mental illness. Ironically, mental illness was brought up time and time again at the May 7 Town Hall meeting, as if Brendon's killing could be partly justified by the possibility of him suffering from something like that. The tables need to be turned: mental illness is more prevalent in the police force than in the civilian masses. Namely PTSD, inferiority complexes, need to prove oneself for others' acceptance and approval, and so on. If that's not a can full of worms, I don't know what is.

Here in Venice people were heartbroken over Brendon's untimely and undeserved death. I saw quite a few grabbing the May Beachhead and starting to sob. The community was saddened and hurt that somethings like this, that we hear of every day as happening somewhere else, actually happened here, where we felt safe. Unlike some of the other police killings that recently took place nation-wide, Brendon's killing in Venice did not make the national news. If you weren't living here, you wouldn't even know about it.

We came together with outpourings of love and tears at the Memorial dedicated to Brendon, built by all of us at the site of his killing. On May 20, Occupy Venice set up a nice spread and fed everybody warm, yummy vegetarian food at the site of the Memorial. A

near-by business found that get-together to be too disturbing, and had the cops remove all sentimental mementos the community had generously gathered at the Memorial since the day after Brendon's death.

The LAPD had taken his life and then came back to take his Memorial as well.



Left: What used to be Brendon's Memorial, all of it confiscated by the LAPD during the night of May 20, after a big get-together organized by Occupy Venice Photo: Greta Cobar

Historic OFW Houses to Be Demolished

By Greta Cobar

The very last two historic houses on OFW are about to be torn down.

According to the Notice of Public Hearing posted on the Speedway side of the 811-815 Ocean Front Walk properties:

“Permit for the demolition of two existing residential buildings containing a total of nine dwelling units, and the construction of a new 35-foot tall, 2,691 square-foot restaurant on the ground-floor with two residential units above totaling 8,456 square feet.”

“Conditional use to permit the dispensing of a full line of alcoholic beverages for on-site consumption in conjunction with 100 seats having operating hours between 8am to 1am Friday and Saturday and 8am to 12 midnight Sunday through Thursday.”

The Notice does not mention where the patrons or the employees will park. It also fails to take into consideration the illegal, selectively enforced curfew now in effect on OFW between midnight and 5am. How are the customers and employees going to exit the restaurant after midnight? Speedway is not pedestrian-friendly and is overall less safe than OFW.

Furthermore, Venice already has the highest concentration of liquor licenses in the L.A. County – 33 per square mile, compared to an average of four in the rest of the county. A year ago there were 108 alcohol licenses in Venice, and there are probably more now. That equates to one license per 370 people. The Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) regulation is one per 2000 people at the most. The public has been supportive of a ban on new liquor licenses in Venice, with our elected representative ignoring us. To sign a petition advocating for a moratorium on alcohol licenses in Venice, go to: <http://chn.ge/1ALHgdn>.

The trend in Venice over-development has been to maximize square footage of all projects by building to the edge of the property line and by maximizing height. The market value stands at \$1250 per square foot of new development. That raises the property value and therefore the amount of tax paid on the properties. And all that tax money goes to the city of Los Angeles to do whatever it wants with, such as cover the salaries of our City Council representatives, who happen to be the highest-paid city reps in the country. Do you now see why our City Council representative Mike Bonin has been supporting over-development in Venice although the people he represents, and who elected him, bitterly oppose it? He’s working for the greedy city of Los Angeles, not for Venice. The more over-development is built here in Venice, the more tax money Los Angeles collects. Do you agree that we need cityhood?

The proposed project for 811-815 OFW lists John Reed as the Representative. The public hearing will



take place on Thursday, June 11 at 10:30am at the Hearing Office of Zoning Administration, West L.A. Municipal Building, second floor, hearing room. The address is: 1645 Corinth Ave., L.A., CA 90025.

The hideous wave of over-development not coincidentally started in Oakwood, targeting the less-affluent, minority residents of Venice. However, in no time it moved further and further West, now beginning to hit OFW itself – the last line in the sand.



First They Came

By Pastor Martin Niemoller

When the Nazis came for the communists,
I remained silent;
I was not a communist.

When they locked up the social democrats,
I remained silent;
I was not a social democrat.

When they came for the trade unionists,
I did not speak out;
I was not a trade unionist.

When they came for the Jews,
I remained silent;
I wasn't a Jew.

When they came for me,
there was no one left to speak out.

Left: Snapchat leased out the two buildings at 619 and 701 OFW and illegally transformed them into business offices, which are not permitted on OFW. Curtains hide the cubicles and numerous computers inside what was built to be residences. Security guys (pictured) have a 24-hour presence.

A High-Tech Squeeze and Gridlock at OFW and Sunset Threaten to Take Venice Down

– Continued from page 1

serving commercial uses”. It goes on to state: “The integration and mixing of uses will increase opportunities for employees to live near jobs and residents to live near shopping,” thereby decreasing automobile trips and traffic. The wording appears to exclude general office uses, as not providing a focal point for local shopping, civic and social activities or visitor-serving commercial uses, and displacing retail uses that would allow residents to live near shopping. The developer argues the opposite, that by including office uses in a residential neighborhood the project increases opportunities for employees to live near jobs (although not for residents to live near shopping), and thereby reduces commuting and traffic.

But as another consequence of high-tech office uses proliferating in Venice, decently paid high-tech employees are competing in the local rental housing market and driving out long-time and poorer residents. We all (mostly) use high-tech. We love it. But Venice dies if the local rental housing stock gets scooped up and taken off the market by the new influx of high-tech employees. Rents have soared and the up-and-coming artists and musicians who give Venice its life and who always struggle are being forced out. Without them the Venice Spirit as we know it dries up. Venice becomes a boringly predictable, quite wealthy community like every other urban beach community from the Mexican to Oregon border, and ordinary folk, those without money, lose their place in the sole beach community that welcomes them with both arms. Venice Beach ceases to be the place we all know and love, i.e. that place which is NOT like everywhere else.

The consequences of allowing high-tech office development all along OFW would be tragic. Decision-makers in the Planning Department and at the Coastal Commission might not be aware

just how tragic, and may need to be educated and enlightened, because people who don’t live here might just not be able to see the full extent of what is happening and foresee where it leads. But the Coastal Commission has as its mandate to protect and encourage public access along the beach. Traffic gridlock and a parking squeeze undermine that mandate. So would general office uses taking up Community Commercial lots “intended to provide focal points for local shopping, civic and social activities and for visitor-serving commercial uses” on OFW. High tech offices employ security guards to keep the public out, while local shopping, civic and social activities and visitor-serving commercial uses invite people in. High tech office uses on OFW do not promote public access, and in fact they seriously undermine it.

Things that happen on Venice Beach often become magnified into big news that travels far. The high-tech office incursion is already national news, but were this allowed to become a complete takeover, it would only come from blindness or short-sightedness, and the whole world would be watching. For the sake of Venice and the wider world, Venice residents need to make the picture crystal clear to all who will listen and look.



Parking lot, site of proposed development, 601 OFW

Write, call, or e-mail City Planning, the Venice Neighborhood Council and the Coastal Commission, as follows:

Refer to Case ZA-2015-102, 601 Ocean Front Walk, Venice.

Lynda Smith, Project Point Person
Los Angeles City Planning Dept
213.978.1196
Lynda.Smith@LACITY.ORG

Robin Rudisill, Chairperson, LUPC
Venice Neighborhood Council
Chair-lupc@venice.org

Zach.rehm@coastal.ca.gov

All photos on this page by: Greta Cobar

An Artist's Journey

By Jack Neworth

These past weeks have been stressful here in Venice. The death of an unarmed homeless man at the hands of a police officer, has left a sense of tension. One can only hope that justice is soon served and that somehow some good comes out of this senseless tragedy.

In stark contrast to this tension, however, is the calming presence of a talented poet, recording artist and painter from El Salvador, Mauricio Eduardo (Moreira) Calderon De La Barca. His friends just call him "Eddie," otherwise they'd be out of breath.

As a child in El Salvador Eddie's witnessed much violence. At the age of 9, he unavoidably witnessed a public execution as a military firing squad "executed" a group of protesting college students lined up against a wall. Later, the government hosed off the wall as if by doing so they could erase the brutal acts, but the memories were forever etched in a boy's mind.

As a result of these tragic experiences, "peace," is an overriding theme in Eddie's art and life. Blessed with a positive spirit, he's grateful for every day he's able to create art.

A welcome fixture on Ocean Front Walk for 6 years, Eddie's the quintessential "street artist." Charming and affable, he reminds me of a combination of the actor Diego Luna and the tennis player Rafa Nadal. (One rarely sees those two names in the same sentence.)

Eddie's father, a master carpenter, and his mother, a seamstress, taught him another life lesson that he carries to this day: that others may have it worse. Maybe that's why Eddie feels so fortunate despite not having a roof over his head or a studio to paint in, two "circumstances" he hopes to remedy soon.

Weather permitting, Eddie's on Ocean Front Walk daily painting large canvasses. He describes his art as, "Ethereal, spiritual and healing. Using metallics and vibrant colors, I incorporate sacred geometry and mandalas. I try to communicate a healing light that stimulates thought and provides a sense of peace." In fact, viewing Eddie's art can have that effect.

Judging by the volume of sales, however, Eddie's most popular works are his hand-painted skateboards. Many have the image of icons from the 60s, including Jim Morrison, Janis Joplin, Jimi Hendrix and others from that era.

Tourists from all over the globe are fascinated by Eddie's work and buy them to take home. As a result, Eddie's various pieces of art are in five continents. They're all across the U.S. and in the following additional countries: Chile, South Africa, China, Japan,



Eddie De La Barca on OFW turns skateboards into art Photo by: Julie White

Russia, England, France, Germany, Spain, and Norway. Put it this way: Eddie's art is in more countries than Secretary of State John Kerry has been to.

Eddie dreams of one day personally visiting these places but in the meantime it brings him pleasure to know his art work is there. And he's also flattered that part of the tourists' memories of their vacation to Venice includes something he created.

An artist's life is rarely easy, but being homeless presents daunting additional challenges. Eddie owns a van in which he sleeps, so has some protection from the elements. Typically, he's grateful for what he has rather than lament about what he doesn't. And he constantly tries to help others less fortunate. (Eddie is responsible and mechanically talented, traits he inherited from his father and would make an ideal property caretaker.)

Unfortunately, the van often doesn't start. On occasion it's a rather comical scene to see Eddie and his friends pushing his vehicle from one side of the street to the other to avoid a street sweeper ticket. Eddie

plans to fix the van and get it smogged again soon. To raise funds he's hopeful of getting his various art works into an exhibition at a local gallery.

Perhaps from his childhood traumas in chaotic and often war-torn El Salvador, Eddie is a highly spiritual person. He practices Kundalini yoga and considers Ram Das Bir (Singh) as his guru. His spiritual name is Mahanjot Singh, which means the lion filled with the light of God in his heart.

Much of Eddie's work seems inspired by the 60s and reflects the peace and love from that era. He's gratified by all the positive feedback he gets from foreign tourists who purchase his art and poetry, and also from locals, too. It is important to Eddie that he help show residents of Venice that street artists do make a difference. Eddie De La Barca certainly has.

To see Eddie's art go to space #31 on the boardwalk, between Horizon and Westminster. Online, go to Eddie De La Barca on Facebook and Instagram. He can be reached at: satnameddie@gmail.com.

Photo: Louis Minatti



Above: June 2 LUPC (Land Use and Planning Committee) meeting at The Whaler. Pictured: supporters of La Fiesta Brava at 425 Rose, who won that evening – LUPC said no to the proposed new restaurant scheduled to replace La Fiesta Brava. However, many old-timers who have been involved with LUPC in the fight against over-development over the past few years have lost faith in LUPC Chair Robin Rudisill's integrity. Some question her motives and her effectiveness in fighting over-development in Venice.

Hey Beachheaders,

Great job on the May issue and covering the full story of recent events in our community. Nowhere else but in the Beachhead, do we find such in-depth coverage – telling the story of how all these issues of poverty and gentrification are interconnected to the police violence we see on our streets – a story the L.A. Times and all the rest are afraid to tell. You guys deserve a Pulitzer.

—Mark Lipman

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Entertaining & Insightful Readings



Left: The city of L.A. is getting tons of money off filming and closing permits, but none of that money goes back to take care of the Venice skate park.

Instead, Jesse Martinez wakes up before dawn every morning and drives from East L.A. (he's been priced out of Venice) to clean and take care of the skate park without getting paid a dime and barely being able to raise enough money for the cleaning supplies.

The greedy city of L.A. is out to cash in as much as possible out of Venice, while continuing to ignore her basic needs as if she was a step-child.

If you want things to be any different, Venice cityhood is the only way to make it happen.

 **Nextdoor**

Nextdoor.com ... where Venice lives

HER POETRY LIVES ON BATHROOM WALLS
By David Fewster

On Super Bowl Sunday in 2005
I was broke and busted and had returned
to Los Angeles like an elephant
looking for a graveyard.
So of course I was at the
Beyond Baroque open reading,
because years of suffering had
made me a Poet.
I read from my book
"Diary of a Homeless Alcoholic
Suicidal Maniac & Other Picture Postcards."
It went well--
got a lotta laughs.
At the break in the lobby,
a wild-haired old hippie broad
dressed in bag lady chic
said she wanted to buy my book.
Would I take a check?
Sure! I said.
I didn't even have a bank account.
And neither of us had a pen, either.
Someone had a Sharpie, however,
and I got my \$7 check,
nearly illegible, written in
big-assed black marker.
Geez, I hope someone will cash this,
I thought as I stared at it on the porch
while having a smoke.
The name on the upper left corner
troubled me--it was so familiar.
Then it hit me--OMG
John Thomas, Charles Bukowski,
Poet of Venice.
Rushing back into the auditorium,
I threw myself into the seat next to her
and gushed
"Let me just say what an honor it is
to have my book purchased by the
Queen of Bohemia."
Letting out a raucous bark,
she reached over and literally
patted me on the top of my head.
Who the hell even does that
except in 19th-century novels?
Nevertheless, I vowed to never wash
my greasy, pony-tailed locks again
(yeah, like I did that very often anyway.)
Because I had been
Benedicted.
After the reading,
I asked my new friend the directions
to Abbott's Habit, where another
open mike would be starting in an hour.
She told me, and wished me well
on my journey.
When I got to the coffeehouse,
I threw my backpack on the bench to save the seat and
asked the person next to me
to watch it while I went to the restroom.
She was a very old lady with an
astonishing set of whiskers at the point of her chin,
which made me think of Gandalf for some reason.
Taking her barely-audible grunt as an ascent,
I went about my business.
Later that night, I just about had a stroke
when she was introduced as one of
the readers.
I had managed to meet both
Philomene Long and FrancEye
on the same February evening.

A Stirring Underfoot

By Mark Lipman
A rumbling can be heard on the horizon
A great stirring underfoot
as dried, dying leaves crack and crumble
from the weight bearing down on them
The march into battle echoes in far off villages
and mighty metropolis
as clear as the fallen pin.
A wisp of wind in the Sahara
is all that is needed
to create a sand storm
in the dust bowl of the mid-west
Unrest in the streets and town squares
amassed in the raised voices
at the checkout counter
And a fist can be seen in the air
multiplied by the millions
of disheveled and downtrodden.
No, we are not to blame for the bankers’ plunder.
We, we are merely the results of deregulation
of capitalization
of corruption in high places
and our voices will be heard
Vibrating in your meeting halls
crumbling your capitols
to dust and ash
from whence they came.
Greedy children and their teachers
are not the guilty parties.
The excess spoils will not be found
in the pockets of the toiling masses.
Grandma’s social security check
did not crash the economy
any more than did immigrants
send your jobs to China.
We are not the problem
but like a thunderbolt from Zeus’ fingertips
slicing through the darkness
of their expedient lies
We will be the solution.

Pale Life

"Mine is a gift of many colors
not bright, not dark, but
deeply, intensely, speaking.
Now exiled, truest tongue forbidden,
stories halted, extinguished.
My eyes are dying here .
This pale life,
a hard, sad riddle to live."
Joanna Silva

Free Venice Beachhead • June 2015 • 9

City of Angels

By Marty Liboff
I'm just wastin away down here in L.A.
I don't know if I'm gonna stay
I gotta have fun & play...
L.A. kind of mind
drivin & drivin nowhere
sittin on my behind
Money & food wasted everywhere
hungry homeless sit & stare
Robbers, thieves & crooks
nuts, assholes & snooks
Cops beatin & killin
they think its thrillin
The sun & surf are fun
but ya might be shot by a gun
The most talented get nowhere & die
the mediocre & crap is what gets by
Shut up & look cool
the streets stink with pee & stool
L.A. is a crazy town
everything seems cuckoo & upside down
Ya think there's fog
its really poisonous smog
Billionaires, drug dealers & hoes
mansions, slums & only the lonely knows
Yo gals is sexy bitches
many are crazy witches
Nobody speaks except on the phone
many call Starbucks their home
Crowds on Hollywood Blvd., Universal Studios &
Knotts Berry Farm
San Andreas Fault will snap – sound the alarm
Latinos, Blacks, Asians & Whites
sometimes we get along & sometimes there's fights
Catholic, Protestant, Buddhist, Muslim, Hindu
atheist, agnostic & a Jew or two
Earthquakes rock & roll
the Coliseum, Dodger Stadium, Hollywood Bowl
Disneyland, Venice, Santa Monica Pier
you're shot by a cop & nobody sheds a tear
There's no more water cause there's no rain
yet more people come in cars, jets & the train
No H2O so don't shower long
pot is almost legal so smoke your bong
Gay is O.K.
sex is just exercise & play
The Lakers, Clippers, Dodgers & Kings
soon football teams & gold rings
Same sex couples walkin hand & hand
everyone wants to be in a band
A cultural mix
intellectuals, movie stars & hicks
Pizza, corned beef & tacos
falafel, pad Thai & burritos
Pig's feet, burgers, matzo balls & sushi
Kim chi, ravioli, & Bacardi
Everyone wants to be a rock singer or movie star
the graveyards are full & not far
L.A. is my town
sometimes makes ya smile & at times a frown
I'm just wastin away down here in L.A.
I don't know if I'm gonna stay
I gotta have fun & play...



09:35 Friday, May 22nd, 2015, Dudley&Boardwalk, Venice We're at the "Venice West." What used to be. Then dissolution came. To set it free. It used to be illegal. Poetry. Here. At the Venice West. A felony. A time for everything. Eventually. This place has had its time. Inevitably. The distant afterglow. Remarkably. Is radiating still. Totality. Of vision. Let's include eternity. We're right below the flight path. We are free. Let's plan a course of action. Turn and flee. Or stay us. Candle Cafe. In the lee. Let resolution come. To simply be. While here at Venice West. What used to be Roger Houston, post-beat romantic



VENICE

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Community Event Calendar

Thursday, June 4th

8:00 PM – Linda Lerner & S. A. Griffin, Beyond Baroque, \$10/\$6, Members Free.

Friday, 5 June

- 6:00 PM – First Friday on Abbot Kinney.
- 8:00 PM – Anthony Rogers reads from his book, *Ethereal Mantras*. Beyond Baroque \$10/\$6, Members Free.
- 9:00-11:00 PM – High Voltage Performances, three: Sharna Fabiano, Mitsu Salmon, Orit Arfa. Electric Lodge, Free

Saturday, June 6

- 4:00 PM – Ricardo Quiones: Poetic Drama with Lisa Robins and cellist Joshua Rosett. Beyond Baroque \$10/\$6, Members Free
- 5:30 PM – Robert Branaman curated Group Show: The Hot 10. Beyond Baroque. FREE.
- 8:00 PM – Poetry in Motion: Allen Ginsberg and Friends. evebrandsteinpoetryinmotion.com Special General Admission – Advanced \$15; \$20 at the door; \$10 Students/Seniors; Beyond Baroque. \$8

Sunday, June 7

- 11:00 AM – 6:00 PM - Venice Artblock Open Studios. Get map at 4th and Sunset.
- 5:00 PM – First Sunday Open Poetry Reading. Feature: Lisa Montague. Host Steve Goldman. Sign ups begin at 4:45 PM. Five-minute limit. Beyond Baroque, Suggested donation \$5.

Monday, June 8

- 6:00 PM – Expermental Art, Music & Photography Films at unurban 3301 pico blvd free

Wednesday, June 10

- 7:00 PM: – Suzy Williams, jazz-blues at Dannys

Thursday, June 11

- 5:00-8:00 PM – Venice YouthBuild and the Mirror Mirror project – final art show and entertainment. Cadillac Hotel, 8 Dudley Court. Free.
- 7:30 PM – Tongue in Groove Presents: Brandon Christopher. Sail the Seven Seas of shitty jobs while hoisting the flag of The Job Pirate. Beyond Baroque. 10/\$6/Members Free
- 8:00 PM – Poets & Writers Connecting Cultures, Celebrates the diversity of Poets & Writers' Readings & Workshops program and the SoCal literary community. Readers include: Sandy Anne Frederick Tabia Salimu Toni Newman, Donta Morrison, E'yama Matturi, Jeffery Martin, Kimberly Cobain, Alexis Rhone Fancher, Celeste Gainey, Terre Fallon, Ramon Garcia, Glen Shiffman. Hosted by Beyond Baroque. Refreshments , \$10/\$5/\$0

Friday, June 12

- 8:00 PM – Carol Potter Featuring F. Douglas Brown Beyond Baroque. 10/\$6/Members Free

Saturday, June 13

- 10:00 AM – Noon - Music in the Garden Concert Series. Ecole Claire Fontaine, 352 Westminster Ave.
- 4:00 PM – MESS: Noted Radio Host Eben Rey interview. unurban, Free
- 7:30 PM – Folk Rock and Blues with Stefani Valadez and Steve Moos, Unurban. Pass-Hat.
- 8:00 PM – Dada in Lala Land 3: Maintenant 9 Publication Reading. L.A. artists and writers such as: Mike Watt, Bob Branaman, Exene Cervenka, Richard Modiano, Alice Bag, Doug Knott, S.A. Griffin, Christian Georgescu, Alex Nodopaka, Gerard Sarnat, Jan Michael Alejandro, Hans L Daiken, Mona Jean Cedar, Rabyn Blake, Silvia Wagensberg, Linda Albertano, Marie Lecrivain and Bibiana Padilla Maltos. Beyond Baroque, \$10/\$6/Members Free

Sunday, June 14

- 2:00 PM – Soap Box Poets Open Reading in the Mike Kelley Gallery, Sign ups at 1:45 PM. 7-minute limit. Feature: Racquel Reyes-Lopez Host: Jessica Wilson. Beyond Baroque. \$5.

Tuesday, June 16

- 7:00 PM – Venice Neighborhood Council Board Meeting. Westminster Elementary School Auditorium.

Wednesday, June 17

- 7:00-10:00 PM: – MOM - Media Discussion, Beyond Baroque, Free.

Thursday, June 18

- 6:00 PM – Venice Art Crawl, www.veniceartcrawl.com
- 7:00 PM – Venice Beach Central, Nickie Black hosts local performers.
- 7:30 PM – Molly Bloom's Bloomsday Night, Euro-style Salon of Irish music, poetry and Joyce's ULYSSES! O'Muimhenachins play their Irish Folk Music & Alex Kovary Dances for us! Beyond Baroque, \$10/\$6/\$0

Friday, June 19

- 8:00 PM – Leslie Anne McIlroy & Alexis Rhone Fancher, Beyond Baroque. \$10/\$6/Members Free

Sunday, June 21

- 2:30 PM – Suzy Williams & Friends at LA Jazz Forum <http://www.westsidejazzforum.org/> (event starts at 1) 1308 2nd st SM, 90401 310 394-4178

Wednesday, June 24

- 6:00-8:00 PM – Venice Chamber of Commerce monthly mixer. Electric Lodge
- 8:30 PM – Suzy Williams jazz&blues, Cinema Bar 3967 Sepulveda Blvd, Culver City

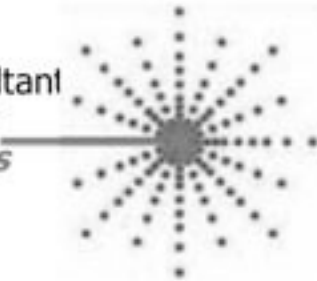
Saturday, June 27

- 8:00 PM – Anna Akhmatova: The Word That Causes Death And Defeat. Carlye Archibeque, Mishelle Ben-Hur, Laurel Ann Bogen, David McIntyre and Sarah Maclay. Beyond Baroque. \$10/\$6/Members Free
- 7:00-10:00 PM – Jazz Funk Fest at unurban

Sunday, June 28

- 1:00-7:00 PM – Santa Monica Main Street Festival, Summer Soulstice. Many Stages and great bands.
- 2:00 PM – Nebraska Girl Open Reading. IHosted by Wyatt Underwood & Messila Alvarado, in the Mike Kelley Gallery. Five-minute limit, sign ups at 1:45 PM. Beyond Baroque. donation \$5.
- 6:00 PM – La Poesia Salon Festival celebrates Federico Garcia Lorca with Mariano Zaro, Open Mic. Bring multilingual poetry to share and your favorite poem by LORCA. Beyond Baroque. Free/Donation.
- 7:00 PM – 7 Dudley Cinema: 5th Annual Lit Show Film Festival. Rare literature films Beyond Baroque., donations appreciated.

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Observe it cuts People not Profit -
Which Greed-Power finds most alluring !

-Anthony Florio

Get Your Local Event Listed

Email your time, date and a brief description
to Calendar@venicebeachhead.org

Ongoing Events

OCCUPY VENICE BEACH

- 8pm Mondays General Assembly upstairs at Beyond Baroque
- 8pm Sundays People's Potluck at 3rd & Rose. Feed the People. Volunteer or donate - 424-209-2777.

COMPUTERS

- 2:30pm, Mon-Fri. **Student/Homework Zone.** Computers, iPads, homework resources and a trained computer aide to assist students grade 4-12. **Free Printing.** Abbot Kinney Public Library.
- Tues/Weds 8:30-6pm, Thurs/Friday 8:30-5pm. **Free Computer Use.** Vera Davis Center.

FOOD

- 10am Tuesdays, 12:30pm Thursdays, 1pm Fridays. **Free Food Distribution.** Vera Davis Center.
- **Sign up for Food Stamps (EBT Cards).** Vera Davis Center. 310-305-1865.
- 4pm Saturdays through Wednesdays. **Free Vegetarian Food.** OFW & Dudley.
- 1:30pm, Thursdays. **Free Vegetarian Food.** OFW & Sunset.

KIDS

- 11:30am-noon Wednesdays. **Toddler Storytime.** Abbot Kinney Public Library. Free.

MUSIC

- 9pm Wednesdays, **Venice Underground Comedy,** Townhouse, No Cover
- 11pm Wednesday - **Burlesque,** Townhouse, No Cover
- 6-10pm, First Fridays. **Venice Street Legends.** Venice Bistro, OFW & Dudley. No Cover.
- 8pm Saturdays, **Brad Kay Regressive Jazz Quartet,** Townhouse. No Cover
- 2pm Sundays, Almost Vaudeville W/ Brad Kay at the Unurban
- O'Brien's Irish Pub **Live music** most nights.
- 1-3pm Every Saturday and Sunday **Free Live Music,** Fisherman's Village, 13755 Fiji Way, MDR 90292

MISCELLANEOUS

- 9-4pm, 2nd Saturday, every month. **Venice High School Flea Market.** 13000 Venice Blvd.
- 7-11am, Fridays. **Venice Farmers Market.** 500 North Venice Blvd.
- 4:15pm, every Thursday – **Chess Club.** Ages 6-15. All levels welcome. Abbot Kinney Library.
- 11:30am-2:30pm, every Sunday, weather permitting. **The Venice Oceanarium** (a museum without walls). Venice Pier. Free.
- 8:30am, 2nd Fridays. **Bus Token Distribution.** First 40 people in line will receive a free bus token. Vera Davis Center.
- 5:30pm, Sundays. **Open Mic Night.** Twentieth Church of Christ, Scientist. 132 Brooks Ave. Free.
- 7-10pm, 3rd Wednesdays. **MOM: Meditations On Media.** Beyond Baroque. Free.
- 10am Sunday Morning Gatherings of Creative community. <http://goo.gl/BbsDV2>

YOGA AND DANCE

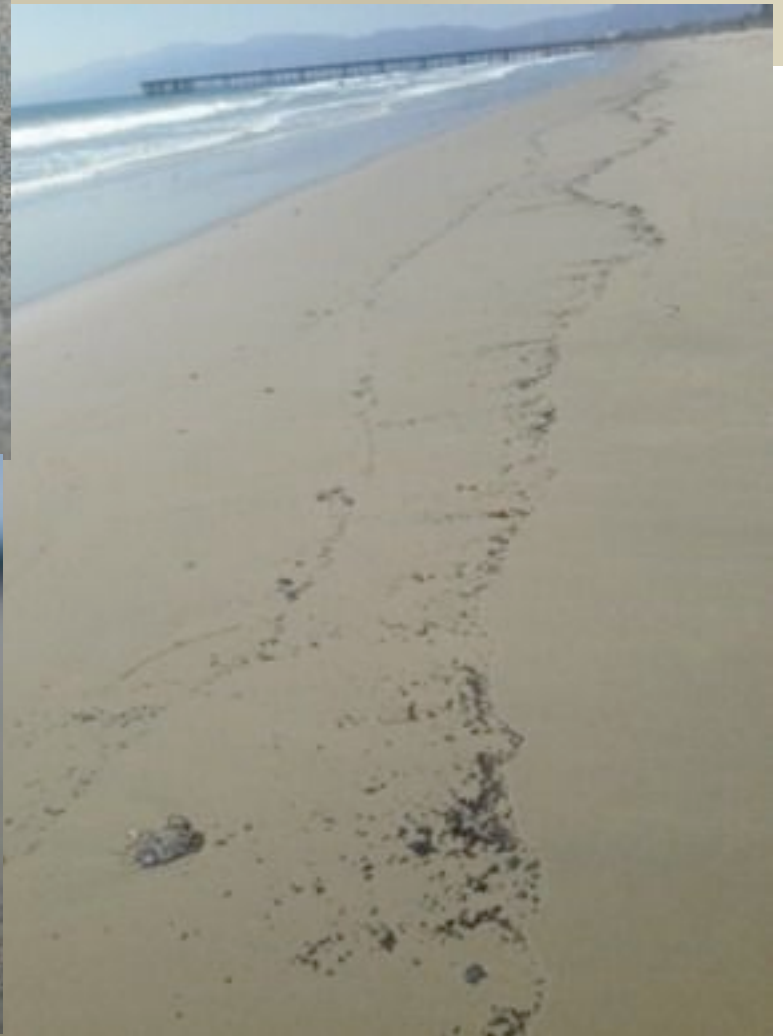
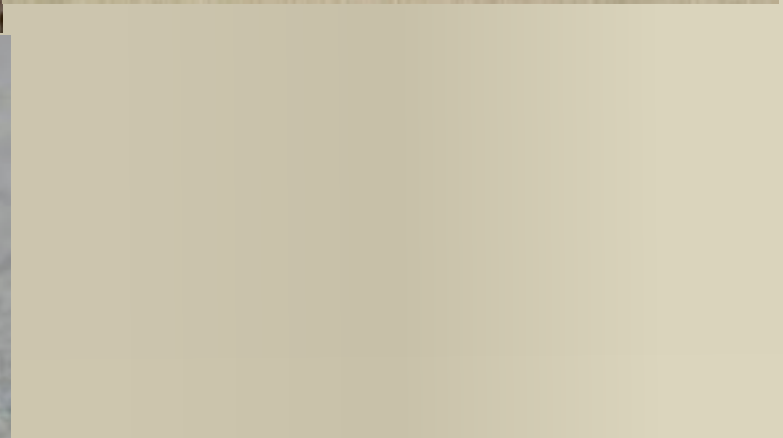
- Mondays 8-9am **Heal One World: Community Yoga,** The Electric Lodge - Free
- Mondays, 1:30-2:30pm **Dancing Through Parkinson's,** Donation, Electric Lodge

ART EXHIBITS

Enrique Martinez Celaya - Through May 16 at the LA Louver Gallery, 45 North Venice Bl, Tue-Sun 10am-6pm

Location Guide

- **Abbot Kinney Public Library,** 501 S. Venice Blvd. 310-821-1769, fovl.org
- **Beyond Baroque,** 681 Venice Blvd. 310-822-3006, www.beyondbaroque.org
- **Dannys** 23 Windward Ave Venice 310-566-5610
- **Electric Lodge,** 1416 Electric Ave. 310-306-1854, electriclodge.org
- **G2 Gallery,** 1503 Abbot Kinney Blvd. 310-452-2842, theg2gallery.com
- **Pacific Resident Theatre,** 703 Venice Blvd, 310-822-8392, pacificresidenttheatre.com
- **SPARC** - Social and Public Art Resource Center, 685 Venice Blvd. sparcmurals.org
- **Townhouse.** 52 Windward.
- **Venice High School** 13000 Venice Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90066 (310) 577-4200
- **Vera Davis Center,** 610 California Ave. 310-305-1865
- **Westminster Elementary School,** 1010 Abbot Kinney Blvd. (enter auditorium from Westminster Ave) 310-606-2015
- **Witzend** 1717 Lincoln Blvd, Venice, California 90291 - 30-702-6765
- **Unurban** Coffee Shop - 3301 Pico Blvd, Santa Monica, 310-315-0056



Oil Spill Reaches Venice

Environmental disaster from the May 20 Santa Barbara oil spill has reached Venice. The ruptured 24-inch pipeline, owned by Plains All American Pipeline, spilled 105,000 gallons of crude oil, some of which made it to Venice and beyond.

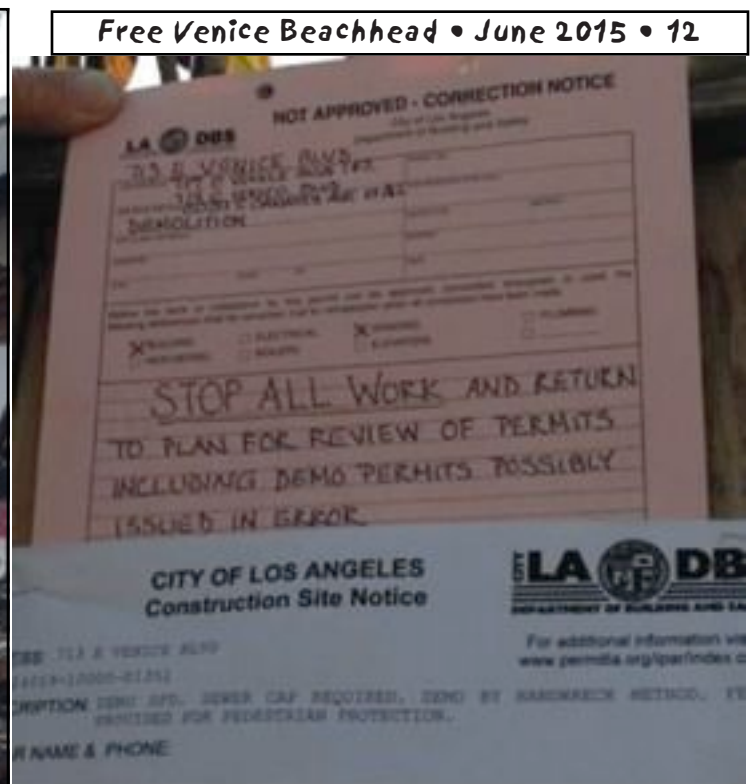
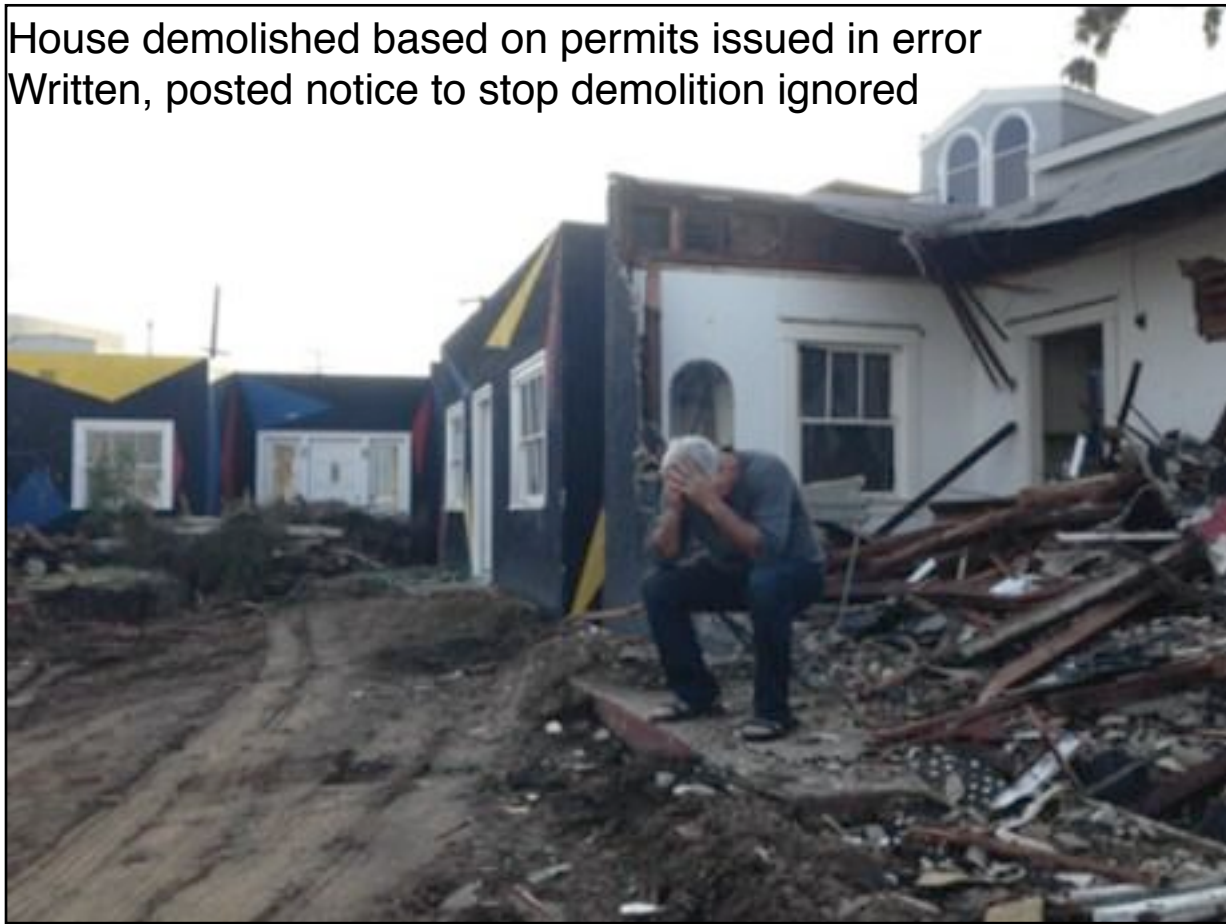
All photos on this page taken on the beach in Venice.

Left column pictures by: Ray Rae

Right column: Greta Cobar



House demolished based on permits issued in error Written, posted notice to stop demolition ignored



Clockwise from top: Tom O'Neill in his demolished house, March 28, at 713-721 Venice Blvd. O'Neill was paid to move (outside of Venice) and to not talk to the media. Developer: Murphy. *Photo by:* Nick Smith.

The city of L.A.'s Department of Building and Safety left a note at the location revoking the demolition permits. However, that notice was ignored and demolition proceeded as planned on May 28. Note states "Demo permits possibly issued in error." Way to go, L.A.!

What the new, planned development is set to look like
What the property used to look like



Above: The mural that has adorned the side wall of what used to be Kim's Market at 600 Mildred. The new owners want to open an 80-seat restaurant in a residential zone, with no parking. The project was not approved by the VNC, but that did not stop them from going forward with the project. Windows are drawn in for the restaurant in the decaying mural. *Photo:* Greta Cobar

Right, top to bottom: New bike racks installed on OFW to prevent cars from entering. If a car hit one of those bike racks even slightly, it would knock it over.

Bike racks that look like tombstones installed on walk streets. When in use, they block access, especially for a person with a disability, which is an American with Disabilities Act (ADA) violation. More useless, new yellow bollards installed off OFW. WHY? *Photos:* Greta Cobar

What Venetians had to say about the new bike racks:

"Who makes these awful decisions?"

"So depressing, like a final blow to Venice, so Santa Monica Promenade/Disneyland, barf."

"So ugly – in an artist community."

"How much did this cost?"

"Car drove down OFW day after all new bike racks and bollards were installed."

"In a real emergency, help won't be able to get through – unless they knock over the bike racks."

