

OFW HISTORIC HOUSES, VENDING FADING LIKE A SUMMER BREEZE



Photo: Pegarty Long

Advertising Graffiti Coming to Ocean Front Walk?

By Dennis Hathaway

Ocean Front Walk is known as The Boardwalk, although it's all concrete—the only boards in sight belong to distant surfers waiting to catch a wave. That view to the west is free of the intense commercialism of the inland side of the the Boardwalk, with its crowded T-shirt and souvenir shops, but strollers gazing beachward may soon be greeted by a new sight—advertising signs on light poles, benches, trash cans, and restroom walls and doors.

At last month's meeting of the City Council's Budget and Finance Committee, Councilman Bill Rosendahl, who represents the Venice area, endorsed the kind of plan put forward last year by the non-profit L.A. Parks Foundation to raise money for city parks maintenance and operations by selling space to what was termed "corporate sponsors." The Venice Beach part of the plan called for 200 signs on an 8-block stretch of the Boardwalk, a total sign area of almost 10,000 square feet, or the equivalent of 15 full-size billboards.

Among other heavily-used parks and recreation facilities slated for advertising were Griffith Park, Pan Pacific Park, and the Sepulveda Dam Recreation area. Signs were to be placed on playground fences, shelter roofs, the bottoms of swimming pools, along trails, and on walls of child care centers. The plans surfaced after the Recreation and Parks Commission voted last October to allow dozens of images from a Warner Bros. "Yogi Bear" movie to be placed in three city parks for a month in advance of the movie's premier. That plan, which was to net

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Big Changes on Ocean Front Walk

A new ordinance for the west side of OFW is being worked up by the City, without participation by Venetians. The good news is that it will ban manufactured goods in favor of art and free speech.

Historic old building face destruction (see above).

A nearly-bankrupt L.A. wants to rake in big bucks by allowing advertisements (commercial graffiti) on nearly everything. Meanwhile, illegal advertisements continue to disfigure hotels and apartments.

LIBYA:
700 Bombing Casualties

AFGHANISTAN:
1,598 U.S. Dead - 35 this month

IRAQ:
4,454 U.S. Dead - 2 this month
33,041 U.S. Wounded

Iraqi Dead: Up to 1.4 million
Cost of wars: \$1.20+ trillion

costofwar.com • antiwar.com • icasualties.org



Beachhead Collective Staff: Karl Abrams, Greta Cobar, Don Geagan, Mary Getlein, CJ Gronner, Roger Linnett, Jim Smith, 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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4 O’Clock in the Morning

Dear Beachhead,
I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Roger Linnett, and The Beachhead, for your article "4 O'Clock in the Morning." I wish I had written it myself. As you may or may not know I led an astronomy campout around the spring and fall equinoxes for over 25 years, usually in Joshua Tree National Park. The core group were old Beachhead staffers (Emily Winters, Olga Palo, Arnold Springer, Moe Stavnezer, et al). I have three telescopes, all somewhat the worse for wear, and still go out to view from time-to-time.

I should have written earlier and thanked you for your article on Henrietta Leavitt. I gave one of my granddaughters George Johnson's biography of Leavitt, and have long been an admirer of hers and other women in astronomy.

Keep up the good work!

Chuck Bloomquist

VNC goes on a shopping spree

Not to be outdone by the Pentagon, the Venice Neighborhood Council at its May 24 meeting voted to spend money like it was going out of style. President Linda Lucks explained that the funds would have to be returned to the City if VNC didn't spend them (where they might have helped reduce the city's budget-BH).

Here's some of the damage:

- \$3000 for the 2011 Venice Community Barbecue;
- \$1620 for rental of storage space;
- \$325 for a booth at the Abbott Kinney Festival;
- \$450 for a new canopy;
- \$425 for meeting timer;
- \$600 for table coverings for Board meetings;
- \$400 for Board retreat.

Although the Board is without translating equipment, no one thought to put it on the shopping list.

The Board also doled out money to a number of worthy - and/or dubious - community causes:

- \$1,900 - Masters In The Chapel: Concert Series;
- \$1, 325 - Walgrove Elementary School: Cafeteria Area Beautification;
- \$1, 900 - Venice Canals Foundation: Coastal Access Path;
- \$1, 900 - Venice Historical Society: Discovering My Venice Workbook;
- \$1, 700 - Venice Canals Assn: Re-Treading Canal Walk-Bridges;
- \$1, 400 - E. Jaquchem/Venice Chamber of Comm: Carnevale;
- \$1, 500 - Coeur d'Alene Elementary School: Local Wildlife Mural;
- \$1, 500 - Beethoven Elementary School: Learning Garden;
- \$1, 000 - Venice Vintage Motorcycle Club: Venice Vintage Motorcycle Rally;
- \$1, 300 - Venice Japanese American Memorial Marker Comm: Memorial Marker at Lincoln & Venice;
- \$500 - Venice Art Crawl: Neptune Festival;
- \$275 - Milton Rosenberg: Venice Spring Fling

The Venice Japanese American Memorial Marker Committee had originally been allocated only \$500 (half as much as the motorcycle club), but after an outcry from the audience was raised to \$1300. They had asked for \$2,000.

Little Church of Horrors

By Calvin Moss

The skate ramp has been torn down; the Peace with Justice Pantry and Venice Food not Bombs has been forced out. What exactly is happening over at the Venice United Methodist Church? Has Pastor Rev. A. Okechukwu Ogbonnaya, a Fundamentalist Evangelical Christian, brought third world anti-gay bigotry and combined it with good old first world white racism?

Pastor Ogbonnaya travels as a preacher to Uganda and Nigeria - countries with extremely homophobic Christian movements in favor of laws that criminalize Gay people. One of these laws in Uganda was the Gay Kill Bill, which was strongly condemned by the United States government. Fundamentalist Evangelical Christians in the United States fund and lobby in favor of this incredible evil and these archaic laws against Gays.

The Church’s present and former trustees are known to have antigay fits and make sick racist comments. One trustee seems to delight in making sick racist comments about African-Americans. Once during a food give away in the Church parking lot he said, “ Someone is going to whack that Sambo” referring to President Obama. Another racist comment made by the same trustee in the church office about the AIDS epidemic that has devastated communities in Africa is: “All those bunnies jumping around in Africa.” Carol Green, the resident churchmarm, chuckled “no one pays any attention to him,” but someone inside the Venice United Methodist Church obviously did.

Cedrick Bridgeforth, the Los Angeles Area District Superintendent of the United Methodist Church, appears to be empowering the Pastor and the trustees to wreck the progressive faction within the church, despite letters and complaints from liberals in the community.

Another former head trustee was seen shaking hands with and befriending a young woman who had just committed a felony hate crime on the former pastor. Rev. Tom Ziegart had his car covered with swastikas and was threatened by this young woman and members of a white youth gangs. Even the present Church trustee chair is believed by some to have extreme antigay opinions and allegedly resorts often to openly lying about recent evictions.

Pastor Ogbonnaya is quoted in the press saying that the church could not afford the \$1000/month insurance for the ramp when it was \$1,100 a year. He said that there was a drug problem at the ramp, but the problem kids were kids from the neighborhood (not the skater kids) that the church intentionally looked the other way about. Now Pastor Ogbonnaya is rumored as saying the skate ramp was removed because of sexual molestation! This Pastor is known by some to make up wild stories like “someone just flashed a gun at me” while the people standing next to him saw nothing.

One other side to this sad story is when Pastor Ogbonnaya met with local L.A.P.D. Captain Peters and other intolerant Evangelical Ministries in Venice. What was said at these meetings is unknown, but one can only think that multiple evictions could be the bitter fruit of this, along with Councilperson Bill Rosendahl and the City’s support of the anti-homeless, hateful gentrification movement in Venice. Are the recent events at this Church an indication of the future of Venice? A right wing, kid hating, poor hating, gay hating intolerant Venice?

A positive solution to the terrible intolerant mess at the Venice United Methodist Church - mainly caused by District Superintendent Cedrick Bridgeforth and the Right Wing Church Members - is to close down that church, donate the Church Hall and parking lot to a local non-profit for conversion into housing for the poor with a ground floor storefront. The Church building, which is separate from the hall, could be turned into a multi-denominational church and community meeting hall used to teach peace with justice and tolerance - the true soul of Venice. ☺

Correction:

In the April 1, 2011 obituary for Joseph Baruch, one time owner of the Finjan Cafe and Venice Beach regular, his daughter was misnamed by the writer. Her name is Debbie Carp, wife of Jon Carp. We apologize for the error.

If you missed it, the obituary is at <http://freevenicebeachhead.wordpress.com/2011/04/01/joseph-baruch-finjan-cafe-owner/>

There is a remembrance posted for him at: <http://josephbaruch.wordpress.com/>.



Community Pressure to Save Vera Davis Center Services Intensifies

By Roger Linnett

The reassignment of the Vera Davis Center to the auspices of the L.A. Cultural Affairs Department is proceeding apace despite the hue and cry of Venice residents that both use and support its many charitable services.

However, the city miraculously found \$60,000 to pay for keeping the Center open during the coming year, which activists attributed to the continuing pressure, particularly from Oakwood residents.

As originally reported in the Beachhead in April, the property is to be taken over by the Cultural Affairs Department, which may evict the service providers that presently operate from the center. The manner in which the transfer from the Community Development Department(CDD), to Cultural Affairs was handled has led to the appearance of another governmental end run. Venetians were *advised* of the impending transfer only after the city had apparently already made the decision and, as too often in the past, the residents of Venice had no input in the matter.

Five of the six organizations working from the center have banded together as the “Friends of Vera Davis Center” Collaborative: the Latino Resource Organization, Venice 2000, Westside Bulldogs, Tech Team Computer Learning Center and the Mildred Cursh Foundation. They are working to stop the Community Development Department from turning over the historic building to the Cultural Affairs people on June 30 and removing much needed services from the building.

The center accommodates Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous meetings, distributes free groceries to the needy twice a month and assists area residents with Food Stamp applications. These services and all the good done by the aforementioned groups will be terminated, and efforts to find alternative sites have yet to provide new quarters for these much needed and appreciated community services.

“As far as the city is concerned, it’s a done deal,” said VNC’s Ivonne Guzman in a recent telephone interview. Guzman, who has been working with the collaborative, says that stopping the transfer is still a possibility.

According to an email from L.A. City Engineer Neil Drucker, “...we anticipate going to Council for final approval of the next year’s (FY2011/12) 5-year plan in mid-June. The proposed plan already includes the following funding recommendations for Oakwood Junior Arts Center: FY2012/13 - \$100,000, FY 2013/14 - \$ 400,000.”

He went on to write that pending Council approval, pre-design activities would begin July 2012; and that, “per the City Attorney opinion, this facility can ONLY [his emphasis] be used as an arts center once the Prop K funds are spent on it, any other such use (such as social services) can only be minimal and ancillary to the use as a Youth Art Center,” according to Drucker.

The line item specifying the Vera Davis Center (formerly the Venice Branch Library) from 1998’s Proposition K – L.A. for Kids reads as follows: “Oakwood Junior Arts Center CD11 – Refurbish, retrofit and convert the Venice Library into a Junior Arts Center,” \$500,000.

But when was the Vera Davis Center ever named "Oakwood Junior Arts Center?" And if these plans really did exist for the last 13 years, why didn't anyone in Venice know about it?

Venetians proudly named the center after a revered community activist, Vera Davis. It was converted into a community center after the library moved, to serve the poor and the needy in Venice.

To Guzman’s question about CDD requesting Prop K funds, Drucker made clear that, in the case that a project was found “infeasible” by the Council, “the funds would be transferred to the Prop K Competitive Grant Program, and would be made available for other projects.”

—continued on page 8

Save The Venice Post Office

By Jim Smith

Why would anyone want to sell our 72-year-old historic post office? The officials at the US Postal Service claim that it is because the quasi-public organization is in deep financial trouble. The USPS currently is \$8 billion in debt. It estimates the sale of the Venice Post Office could bring in \$4.8 million, a drop in the debt bucket.

The USPS wants to close 2,000 of its more than 31,000 post offices, and cut mail delivery to five days per week. A major part of the problem, like many businesses, is employee health care. This could easily be eliminated by implementing single-payer health care, which is not employer based. In addition, the postal service says it over-contributed \$75 billion to federal retirement. A reversal of this account could save the post office for the foreseeable future, while it comes up with a plan to deliver vital communication services such as first-class mail, and to reclaim more of the lucrative overnight mail and package express market, which critics say it gave away because of political pressure.

The National Association of Postmasters has filed a suit against the Postal Service’s new regulations, which include unilaterally consolidating Post Offices without community input, and denying many communities appellate review of Postal Service decisions to close their Post Offices.

The Postal Service, as it now exists, is Nixon’s parting shot to an ungrateful nation. It is neither public nor private, but incorporates the worst features of each. It has an impossible mission of delivering mail to a large part of the globe while making a profit. Its current deficit is made worse by a lasting economic depression that has cut its business significantly. In addition, it gave away most of its most lucrative business — overnight mail – to corporations. The Postal Service doesn’t have a business plan to speak of and is taking its deficit out on the public by cutting services and selling off valuable property, like the Venice Post Office.

The Postal Service has ignored the shift to electronic mail (email) and the internet in general. In contrast, European postal services have embraced the internet and have offered services such as scanning your mail and sending it to your computer. Some countries’ postal services include providing sales within their buildings of special-issue and historic books and stamps for collectors, computer terminals, international telephone booths, even t-shirts and local curios.

A rational business plan for the postal service may include getting rid of many of its brick and mortar post offices, but it makes little sense to begin with the highly visible "legacy" post offices that are historic. The Venice Post Office is a symbol of our community. Its looming presence gives our community the status of a town, not just a wide place in the road between Santa Monica and the Marina. Further, the building was constructed and paid for many years ago. It, and the annex, do not cost the postal service mortgage payments or property taxes. Utilities and upkeep are the only expenses. From the looks of the post office grounds, very little is spent on upkeep.

Some board members of the Neighborhood Council have expressed the view that moving the post office across the Circle to the annex is acceptable. They have been claiming that the old building and its 1941 mural of Venice would be safe since it has historical status. USPS press spokesperson Richard J. Maher was quoted in an April Beachhead article as saying the building had historical protection. However, this turned out to be not true. Attorney Amanda Seward, who won historical protection for the Lincoln Place Apartments, researched the issue and discovered that the Venice Post Office has no historical status.

Bill Rosendahl's Council office quickly drafted a motion which he put before the L.A. City Council on May 26 calling for a historical-cultural study of the building and to report to the City Council. The motion was jointly presented by Rosendahl and by Janice Hahn, who is the front-runner in the campaign for U.S. Congress. If elected, Hahn could likely stop the sale, as Jane Harman did when the Hermosa Beach Post Office was up for sale.

Meanwhile, several community meetings are being planned which could rally opposition to the

sale. They include the Venice Town Council (7pm, June 16 at the Vera Davis Center), the Venice Neighborhood Council's task force on the post office, and the VNC Board meeting.

The Venice Stakeholders Association has also weighed in on the side of keeping the Post Office in the old building. It proposes buying the current post office annex

from the USPS instead, by means of a bond issue, and using the land for a community center and park.

While many Venetians like their letter carrier and the convenience of the current post office building, hard feelings against the post office as an organization have festered over the years. Moving the post office to the old Safeway grocery store would probably result in even more cut backs in service.

Among Venetians’ pet peeves are the following: 1) Cutting Venice in two by moving the southern part into the Marina del Rey's zip code, 90292. Many newcomers do not know that the peninsula, Washington Blvd. and the Oxford Triangle are part of Venice, not the Marina. 2) Eliminating the separate slot at the Venice Post Office for a "Venice" post mark on a letter. 3) Removing the "take a number" machine from the lobby, which forces seniors and the disabled to wait in long lines for service. 4) Installing bullet proof shields at the windows, making Venice appear to be a war zone. After the shields were installed, the USPS built a new post office in neighboring Mar Vista without shields. 5) Reducing the number of letter carriers to the point that many residents don't get their mail until after dark in the winter. 6) Allowing dirty sidewalks, stairways and ramps in front of the post office. 7) Making access to the post office more difficult by allowing a large

FedEx box on the porch. (Note to Postmaster: This is your competition, if you didn't know it.) 8) No bike racks in front of the post office 9) No involvement in the community. The postmaster has not met with community groups, has no office hours to hear complaints and complements, nor does he or his organization participate in community events.

Venice lost its last real Postmaster about 10 years ago, when the Long Beach district, which it was a part of, was dissolved and Venice came under the Los Angeles district, which only has one postmaster, in L.A. While various officials have been called Venice Postmasters since then, they are in reality “Officers in Charge” or OICs. They are neither appointed nor sworn in as postmasters. The days of a Postmaster being appointed by the President or his designee from a group of esteemed members of the community are long gone - to the detriment of the community and the Postal Service. The current Postmaster du jour is Bobbie Harris.

The Venice Post Office could make some more income if it would run, or contract for, a coffee and croissant bar in the far end of the lobby. The post office is one of the main places where Venetians meet their neighbors and friends. It would be nice, and good PR for the post office, to provide a place to sit and have coffee. The host could also sell stamps, eliminating one of the main reasons to stand in line. ☺



The Venice Post Office Cornerstone

How You Can Help Save the Post Office

✍ Email Janice Hahn. She will likely win the runoff election, July 12, for Congress. Send an email to Elaine@JaniceHahn.com.

Ask her to take action now to ask the Postal Service to delay a decision on selling the historic Venice Post Office until she takes office. Ask her to continue Jane Harman's ban on the sale of any post offices in CD-36.

✍ Attend the Venice Town Council meeting, June 16, at the Vera Davis Center. The Post Office will be taken up around 8 pm.

✍ Attend the Venice Neighborhood Council Board meeting, June 21, at the Westminster School Auditorium. The meeting starts at 7 pm.

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Blue Bus Cuts Back Service in Venice

By Mary Getlein

Changes are coming to the Big Blue Bus service in Venice. They were approved by the Santa Monica City Council on May 12 and will go into effect August 28.

The biggest change that will affect Venice bus riders is the elimination of Line 2, which will end at Hill St. and Main St. in Santa Monica. Line 1 will take over the route of Line 2 and will go from UCLA to Walgrove Ave, which is the same route Line 2 had. On weekends, however, some trips will end on Lincoln Blvd. instead of Walgrove Ave. In addition, Sunday frequency will be increased from every 20 minutes to every 15 minutes between 11am and 8:30pm.

Whom does this change affect? The poor, disabled, young and old people of Venice. The number 2 line serviced a lot of people in Venice, going from UCLA to the Windward circle, to Abbot Kinney Blvd., California Ave. to Penmar and Walgrove Ave. It currently serves two sets of Venice children and



young adults, the students of Mark Twain and Venice High. It's a shame this service is being taken away from us, when so much has been taken away already.

The service changes are part of a three-year plan to allow for connections to the Expo Phase 1 light rail, which is scheduled to start in 2012.

The Big Blue Bus has planned similar changes for Lines 3, 5, 12, 14 and Super 12. If you want to register your complaints about these changes, you can contact them through www.BigBlue.com or you can call Customer Service at 310-451-5444. 🚲

"Four In the Morning" - The Video

Last month's wonderful pre-dawn ballet of Mercury, Venus, Mars and Jupiter was at best difficult to see for most of us city dwellers.

If you would like to see a day by day simulation of the entire month of May's celestial flash mob, google: "The four planet dance of 2011" (with quotes), which will get you to a Sky & Telescope article detailing the event.

Scroll to the bottom of the page and click on [Click here to view a 700-kb movie](#) and enjoy.

You will need to have Apple's Quicktime to view the movie.

If you don't have it, google: apple+quicktime to be directed to a download site. The program is free.

—Roger Linnett

🚲



How Venice Voted – And Didn't Vote

By Jim Smith

Since February, when Jane Harman abruptly resigned her seat in Congress, 16 candidates have been working hard to discuss important national and international issues with the voters of the 36th District, including Venice. Unfortunately, Venetians and other voters failed miserably to hold up their end of citizenship. In fact, a lesser percentage of people in Venice - around 15 percent - voted than in the district as a whole (18 percent).

If Venice were its own Congressional District (not a bad idea), there would be a runoff between Debra Bowen with 35 percent and Marcy Winograd with nearly 23 percent of the vote. Janice Hahn and Craig Huey who finished first and second district-wide (and coincidentally spent the most money) were third and forth choices in Venice. However, Huey, an evangelical Christian Republican right-winger who exclaimed that he feared for his life when he came to Venice for a candidates' forum, attracted 303 votes in our community. When is the next Tea Party meeting?

Janice Hahn won the election early-on when she suckered Bowen into signing a pledge to defend Israel, right or wrong, thereby causing the entry of Marcy Winograd into the race. What possessed Bowen to sign a pledge that even casual campaign observers spotted as a devious ploy by Hahn? Without Winograd in the race, Bowen would probably have come out on top in the primary, and Hahn knew it. Bowen, who most of us regarded as a savvy politician, further compounded her woes, as reported in last month's

Beachhead, by refusing to sign the Veterans for Peace pledge to vote against funding the wars, thereby losing even more votes from her progressive base.

So now, Hahn has by default become the progressive candidate fighting off a tea party-birther-make medicare a voucher-cut social services to the bone-right winger-multi-millionaire, Craig Huey, who doesn't even live in the district. Venetians will now have to forget Bowen and Winograd and fall in line with the mainstream Democrat come what may. Even so, Hahn is not likely to take the lead in Congress in ending the wars and bombings, cutting the military budget, creating a public jobs program to reduce California's 23 percent real unemployment

rate (shadowstats.com) or backing the country off of Harman's vision of spying on everyone. She might not even save our post office. Our best hope now is that years of JH (Jane Harman) will be followed by the election of JH (Janice Hahn). If only the other 85 percent of you had voted.

The chart below shows how the candidates did in the various Venice hoods. It includes the top three Democrats, the top three Republicans and the top Libertarian, Peace and Freedom and Coffee Party candidates. Read it and weep.

The final results won't be issued until June 17 and will include a few more votes across the board. Check lavote.net for updates. 🚲

How Venice Voted - May 17, 2010				CONGRESS										
	Registered	Voted	Per cent	Debra Bowen	Michael Chamness	Steve Collett	Mike Gin	Janice Hahn	Craig Huey	Maria Montano	Mike Webb	Marcy Winograd	Precinct	
Venice 90291:														
Central Venice	824	112	13.6%	44	0	1	1	22	4	4	0	30	3201	
Cent. Venice/N. Beach	1101	128	11.6%	46	0	5	0	24	4	1	3	39	2388	
North Beach	904	95	10.5%	32	0	3	4	11	6	0	3	27	1243	
North Beach	1355	204	15.1%	76	1	3	5	45	19	1	4	45	1244	
Rose Ave.	928	115	12.4%	33	1	3	5	35	3	2	0	30	5386	
Rose/Lincoln	853	89	10.4%	21	0	1	0	21	7	0	2	30	1542	
Oakwood	1253	127	10.1%	43	0	2	1	22	2	3	0	41	3235	
Oakwood	1449	147	10.1%	43	0	1	2	6	50	5	1	32	1546	
Milwood	994	185	18.6%	76	0	2	5	34	5	1	0	58	3	
North Penmar	823	169	20.5%	52	0	2	7	36	16	1	4	33	1549	
South Penmar	802	164	20.4%	55	1	2	2	37	10	0	0	26	3202	
Walgrove North	684	148	21.6%	51	0	1	4	20	19	0	7	39	1553	
Walgrove South	1201	213	17.7%	58	0	3	8	39	20	1	3	67	1554	
Zanja	610	106	17.4%	44	0	2	7	16	4	1	4	23	5934	
Presidents' Row	1245	184	14.8%	54	0	0	8	38	22	2	0	48	5936	
Canals	1058	214	20.2%	81	0	3	7	35	15	1	4	59	2921	
South Beach	945	145	15.3%	46	0	1	3	36	6	0	1	47	2863	
Total Venice 90291:	17,029	2,545	14.9%	855	3	36	69	477	212	23	36	674		
				33.6%	0.1%	1.4%	2.7%	18.7%	8.3%	0.9%	1.4%	25.5%		
Venice 90292: (South of Washington)														
Oxford Triangle	832	140	16.8%	68	0	3	6	18	9	2	5	19	2392	
Pen: Wash. to Hurricane	1145	173	15.1%	56	1	2	6	41	18	1	6	23	1884	
Pen: Hurricane to Outrigger	864	176	20.4%	69	0	3	8	38	20	2	6	15	3197	
Pen: Outrigger to end	1080	255	23.6%	105	0	3	16	46	44	0	11	16	561	
Total Venice 90292:	3,921	744	19.0%	298	1	11	36	143	91	5	28	73		
				40.1%	0.1%	1.5%	4.8%	19.2%	12.2%	0.7%	3.8%	9.8%		
District Wide:	344954	64,183	18.6%	13,407	108	896	4,997	15,647	14,116	324	3,895	5,905		
				20.9%	0.2%	1.4%	7.8%	24.4%	22.0%	0.5%	6.1%	9.2%		

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Two giant TV screens would replace Billy's Apartments (see front cover) if developers have their way. Although in the afternoons they may feel more like microwaves. Looks like more chain store shopping on ground level.

Yet Another Ocean Front Walk Ordinance Coming Soon

By Jim Smith

Change is coming to the Ocean Front this summer. Some of it good, some of it bad, from the viewpoint of those who love the uniqueness of Venice.

A few months ago the courts ruled definitively that much of the OFW ordinance 42.15 was unconstitutional, including the lottery for spaces. This was the third version to fail because of incompatibility with First Amendment rights in the Constitution. All of the ordinances were created by the L.A. city attorney's office without input from Venice residents. In fact, at a town hall, Venetians loudly condemned the lottery system in 2006 and were later proven correct by the courts.

Now Norman Kulla, Senior Counsel in Bill Rosendahl's council district office, has drafted a new ordinance which he has turned over to Deputy City Attorney Arleta Brimsey to prepare for passage by the L.A. City Council. There has been little or no input from Venice residents and OFW stakeholders. If there is a community meeting after the publication of the draft ordinance, it will likely be ignored as well.

From comments by Kulla, it seems that the new ordinance will ban commercial vending and crafts, and allow only free speech advocates, artists, performers and food giveaways on the west side of the

Boardwalk. This should thin out the number of people wishing to occupy a space so that a lottery will not be needed. Anyone found selling goods in violation of the ordinance would be ticketed and/or asked to leave.

Folk singer and community activist Stephen Fiske has questioned the viability of the ordinance if there is no enforcement mechanism. In the past, Recreation and Parks Department staff and police have sporadically enforced the ordinance. Currently, no one is enforcing the parts of the ordinance that were not thrown out by the courts.

Fiske is advocating creating community peace keepers who would monitor the west side of OFW, without interference from Recreation and Parks employees or the police. It is possible that a "special district" could be created like those at the Coliseum, Griffith Park and Olivera Street. However, the City of L.A. would likely keep a tight control of the district. It would have limited funds unless the Windward Plaza area was included. Festivals and film shootings frequently pay the City tens of thousands of dollars for the right to operate there.

The draft ordinance is expected to be published in early June and could go into effect as early as July.



Who's Watching The Neighborhood Watch?

By Peggy Lee Kennedy

The latest dirt on the Venice Neighborhood Watch is that the newest neighborhood watch s/hero and queen anti-homeless blogger must have got into it with another neighborhood watch person – triggering a background check revealing a felony conviction, among other things.

Even as a felon, she is just another tool for a police state culture.

The true intention of Community Policing, which is the umbrella organization Alex Thompson for Neighborhood Watch, is to create civilian groups that directly communicate the needs of the community to the police. It is a basically a good idea – if it were not controlled by the police. The problem is that the leaders are not always picked from a diverse



Photo: Jim Smith

—continued on page 10

CONSTITUTION VOID ON VENICE BEACH ?

On February 4, the Parks and Recreation Commission held its second public hearing on a proposed park ordinance which if passed would include the following regulations:

"Except as specifically authorized by written permit issued by the Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners, within the limits of any park in the City of Los Angeles, (this includes Venice Beach, Westminster Park and Oakwood Playground) no person shall: (partial list)

1. "Sell or offer for sale any merchandise, article or thing of any kind or nature whatsoever..."
2. "Play or utilize any sound amplifying system except within or upon an area set aside for such purpose by the Board."
3. "...post, place or erect any bills, notice, paper or advertising device or matter of any kind;"
4. "Enter or remain in any park between the hours of 1:00 AM or 5:00 AM."

In another section the ordinance states that

"No person or group shall hold, conduct or address any assemblage, meeting or gathering of persons, or make or deliver any public speech, lecture or discourse or take

part in any public debate...in any park in the City without a written authorization granted by the Board or its designated representative."

There was a small gathering to protest the ordinance - outspoken were Grace Simon, president of Citizens to Save Elysian Park; Rick Davidson from Free Venice and Peter Young, attorney with Venice Neighborhood Legal Services. Without exception the speakers attacked not only the legality of the ordinance, but also its real purpose. (Do you think the Commission would refuse a permit for a Mayor Yorty benefit? How about an anti-war rally?) Only Peter Young's attack of the ordinance for its absolute and total disregard for the rights supposedly guaranteed us by the U.S. Constitution caused the Commission to postpone passage of the ordinance and "take it under advisement."

The City's attempt to deny our freedom of speech and right to assemble cannot be ignored. The Free Venice Organizing Committee, Venice Neighborhood Legal Services, and the BEACHHEAD are following the actions of the Commission. Somewhere down the road, however, it may require the action of all People to defend our rights.

Crashing The Tom Everhart Party

By CJ Gronner

A whole bunch of Venetians (20+!) took the show on the road and made the trip way, waaaaay past Lincoln last weekend, for the opening of our dear friend, artist Tom Everhart's opening of new works at the Animazing Gallery in Soho, NYC. All of us took that city by storm, and it was made even better by the fact that we were all together, a merry band of beach bohemians in the big city. It was awesome.

Crashing The Party - The Arty-Fact Paintings was the reason and centerpiece of the trip, and it was the best (and at 95 works, the biggest ever) Everhart show I've ever attended, and I've been to a lot. I'm sure a lot had to do with the splendid company, but it also had a lot to do with seeing the overwhelming appreciation for an artist whose work I have the delight and pleasure of seeing on an almost daily basis here in Venice, in a packed house of super-fans of his work (so much so that I believe it might be sold out). I also have the distinct privilege of insightful conversation about art with Tom, all the time. I'm a much smarter and more appreciative connoisseur of art due to the years of rapping about it, arguing about it, and loving it with Tom and his darling wife, Jennifer (one of my main BFF's).



People (journalists, art critics, the general population) often mistake Tom's art for being "Inspired by Charles Schulz's Peanuts" gang of characters, when in reality, and I'll quote Tom here, after a conversation we had post-show, "It's more accurate to say that my work is a visual language I learned from Schulz that allowed me to produce work in a new way of seeing events, moments, experiences, inspired by my own life." Meaning, through his deep and enduring friendship with Mr. Schulz (who he calls "Sparky") until his death in 2000, Tom came to see life through that lens, and just happened to be able to exactly replicate the lines in Schulz's work, which no one else had been able to do, and why Schulz respected Tom's work enough to allow him exclusive license to utilize his characters in Tom's fine art pieces.

So you might be seeing Snoopy jumping off a cliff, but Tom saw it as Jenny launching herself into the waters of their beloved part-

time home of Tahiti. Or our old friend Sponto as Pig Pen. Or me as a lei-wearing beach Snoopy. Or Charlie Brown as a big-headed kid in the neighborhood (just kidding). Or even a mass grouping of Snoopys, with a dose of social commentary about over-population in there for good measure.

From the Press Release for the show:

"Everhart attempts to create a dialog among the paintings that addresses his concern about over-population and the strain it has put on world resources while juxtaposing this against the isolated, open, tropical areas that seem to live in harmony with nature. On a more personal level,

Crashing the Party is Everhart's way of expressing how he feels about the artistic path he has chosen. Putting aside a classical education, Everhart brazenly carved out a successful career in the fine art world with his paintbrush and sheer audacity. His choice to focus an entire career on the subject matter of a single cartoon is considered scandalous within various circles of his own art community, but inevitably, this superficial viewpoint disintegrates when the sophistication of the work exposes itself."

You get it now. And most likely love it, as the masses squishing into the Animazing Gallery certainly did. I've never seen anyone with a more constant and inspiring work ethic than Tom, and it was such a joy to see it celebrated like it was in New York last weekend.

Venice was represented by the Everharts, of course, but by local shop owners (Bunny & Sandor with Leaf), restaurant owners (Mercedes), Men about town (Alan Shaffer - missing the Venice Art Walk for the first time in all its years! - Destin, Taylor, Chris, Kwaku), dear friends (Mara & Henri, Darcy, Marischa & Ricardo, Paulyn, Catherine & Tom from a local business, Don Francis, framing, and Me), Catherine and Tom from local biz, Don



Francis Framing (who did all the lovely frames for Tom's pieces), Former Venetian/Now New Yorker (Sarah), (I'm forgetting some, I know it) and the show was even installed (awesomely) by Dave and Paul, of our own local Art Gallery Services, who drove the art across country straight from Abbot Kinney. Plus all the friends from all over the world, new and old.

Jessica Simpson and her fiancé, Eric Johnson, good friends of the Everharts, had the paparazzi and Access Hollywood in the house too, so the whole country got to see how our Venice art world rolls. And how we roll is FUN. Gang dinners on the town. The Met to see the do not miss Alexander McQueen show Savage Beauty. Pre/Post Parties at The Crosby Hotel. Running all over, as there was a lot to fit in a fast weekend. All that fun and there was only one police incident, but as our local perp said, "Yeah, but it was a mellow cuffing" - perhaps the quote of the weekend.

It's a great thing when people will travel far and wide to see art. It's even better when it's about friendship. How very Venice ... Art. Crime. Friendship!

If you're in New York, Crashing the Party - The Arty-Fact Paintings is open to the public at The Animazing Gallery until June 26th, 2011. If you're in Venice, look for the tall, blond guy in paint splattered shorts riding his bike around, and shake his hand for a job greatly done. And a fun, friend-filled life being lived, in true Venice style.

The Animazing Gallery, 54 Greene Street, New York, NY, www.animazing.com 🚲



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#2**

The Circus is in Town!

By CJ Gronner

The Circus came to town with the opening of the Zircon & Wish Aerial Circus happening in the one-ring space of Robin's Sculpture Garden right there on Abbot Kinney Boulevard! I couldn't wait to attend opening night, as I'd been hearing about the work going into it for quite a while. It was about time some REAL crazy stuff happened on the street vs. the usual hullabaloo about parking or food trucks or



restaurant seating or strollers or whatnot crazy-MAKING. THIS was something I could get behind as what I always wanted Venice to be in my mind when I first heard about the place as a kid. Kids of all ages enjoyed the premiere of our own Venice Circus, and many in the audience came prepared in costumes of their own, in the true spirit of the idea.

The theme of this circus is *Alice In Wonderland*, so the set was done up with that story's props: a clock, mushrooms, big perfume bottle, etc. A mime named Chico was going around painting the white roses red before the show as people got seated (after visiting the concession stand, of course). He was soon joined by fun, sociable kids from the crowd, getting into it with hula hoops from Hoopnotica. One young boy from the neighborhood



even showed off his rookie break-dance moves. {I love when kids just go for it, without any fear or self-consciousness like that. It gives me hope that there will still be cool people in the future. Phew.} Robin Murez of Robin's Sculpture Garden, the woman and the space hosting the event, introduced the night as the first ever performance of the Zircon & Wish Circus in her space (which will continue on weekends through the Summer!), which is a perfect magic spot, such as it is, scattered about with her giant heart sculptures and over-sized blown glass blades of grass. It really does feel like down the rabbit hole a little bit, on just a regular day. Just as I was thinking about that, a White Rabbit came out, muttering about "I'm late!"

While she ranted on about it in that drama club silly voice way that kids find hilarious, Alice slowly descended from the ceiling of the aerial structure that has been rigged high above the ground. With the May sky gradually growing grayer (and chillier) over Venice, it was pretty dope and dramatic looking as "She" (Alice was a guy to begin with) swirled around the rope, making it look extra graceful and easy.

Alice drank from the "Drink Me" bottle and soon shrank into a little doll, getting some laughs. The doll drank again (with help) and came back as a giant female Alice on stilts. She jumped rope and hula-hooped and danced and made the little kids laugh until the Mad Hatter interrupted it all to dazzle with more aerial tricks.

With no net, by the way. That takes some serious brute strength, both mental and physical, as it was pretty high up there.

A Lady Elaine-sounding (*Mr. Rogers*, remember?!), hookah smoking Caterpillar came out and queened it up, spouting smoke and great lines for Venice, like "We're all mad here!" (which I like to think we tend/hope to be, in the Kerouac-ian sense, like: "*The only people for me are the mad ones, the ones who are mad to live, mad to talk, mad to be saved, desirous of everything at the same time, the ones who never yawn or say a commonplace thing, but burn, burn, burn, like fabulous yellow roman candles exploding like spiders across the stars and in the middle you see the blue centerlight pop and everybody goes 'Awww!'*") ...

... and "I hope you have your head fastened on tight!" as she offered up a lick of mushroom to Alice.

The Cheshire Cat came out and spun from a hula hoop attached to the rope, with such feline grace and natural strength that a little girl yelled out, "Nice job, Kitty Cat!", making us all laugh - with her. The Queen of Hearts erupted out of a veil of smoke machine haze and shouted, "I love croquet!" We do too, Queen of Hearts!

Tweedle Dee and Tweedle Dum (Zircon and Wish again, as they play many parts) came out and did power moves on the red silks hanging from the aerial apparatus, and everyone's necks were craned upward as they balanced and lifted each other with such fluid ease that it seemed like anyone could just hop up there and cruise around on it. Until I heard a guy in front of me say he could never even climb the rope all the way up back in gym class.

Circuses always bring up memories ... o O (thought bubble) I remember skipping the box seats my Mom won to the Circus back home because it was the same night Michael Jackson was performing on the American Music Awards, the time he first did the Moonwalk. I still think I made the right choice - that thing was exciting!

[Amid all of this, I could hear people going by on the sidewalk, heels clacking on their way to Wabi-Sabi or The Tasting Kitchen across the street, wondering what the heck was going on in this space right on the boulevard, with dudes hanging from giant red drapes, spinning overhead a bit like a cross between Cirque du



Soleil, *Pee Wee's Playhouse*, and a scene from *Bruno*. It gave me immense pleasure to hear that renewed wonder in the voices as they came across something splendid by complete surprise.]

The Tweedles entertained the crowd with their magnificent feats, and then it was over, to introductions and applause. You could tell the crowd was delighted, that for most of us, we all just walked on over to the Circus that night! And would now walk on to the next venue, party or home, having been reminded that life itself is a crazy Circus. Venice was founded on the ideas of a Circus Ringmaster kinda guy, and that is the spirit that has hovered over it all - and persists - exactly because people like this have their dreams, and make them come true.

Join the fun (and be inspired to create your own!)

The next Circus weekends are June 11th & 12th, and June 25th & 26th.
Zircon & Wish Aerial Circus
@ Robin's Sculpture Garden
1632 Abbot Kinney Boulevard
Venice
Venicecircus@gmail.com

**Tickets are steep-ish (\$25) for a somewhat short show, but there are discounts for those saying "White Party" at the gate. They're also pretty cool about working with the locals to make it affordable to bring a slew of kids out for a night of fun and fantasy, right up the street.* ☺



Commission of Errors: The Continuing Fight to Save Our Environment

By John Davis

It’s bulldozers versus nature all over again in Ballona. The Santa Monica Bay Restoration Founda-tion, a non-profit corporation, was just stopped by legal injunction from dredging the Malibu Lagoon, and now that Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commis-sion, a State Agency, is dead set on destroying the Ballona Wetlands, calling it a “restoration.”

The SMBRC is funneling money into non-profits preferred by its board members and staff who also serve on the non-profit corporations that get the money.

Other local non-profits which are equally capa-ble, if not more so, are excluded from the process.

The Sierra Club held a meeting to discuss valid alternatives to the SMBRC plan. The general consen-sus of all groups present was that it was not necessary to destroy a wetland to restore it.

Local non-profits have been frozen out of the process in favor of a tight knit clique which exercises total control of the process and the state and federal money involved.

The State Commission simply wants to dig a big hole in the salt marsh to act as a toilet for upstream developments. SMBRC is leading this insane charge while ignoring alternatives. The Commission claims it is restoring an estuary where none ever existed and ignores the giant estuary under their noses, Marina del Rey.

The players involved are SMBRC Governing Board Members like the Mayor of Santa Monica, Richard Bloom, L A City Councilmember Bill Ro-sendahl, County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, as well as the Director of California State Parks, the Secretar-ies of Environment and Resources, a member of the Coastal Commission, many other politicians, in con-cert with representatives of the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, the E.P.A., and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Other members include representatives of local non-profits: Mark Gold of *Heal the Bay* and Katherine Tyrell of the *Santa Mon-ica Bay Restoration Foundation*.

Here are some of the problems. The Commission meets in a gated yacht club in Marina del Rey. It an-ounces its meetings on a private website, not a government-sanctioned site. The State Commission shares the website with a 501C3 Non-Profit Corpora-tion called the *Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foun-dation*. This non-profit benefits from its association with the state while others are not allowed in. The foundation has even gone so far as to place the Great Seal of the State of California on their donation form, as if it were part of the State itself.

But it does not stop there. People associated with the foundation are acting as staff to SMBRC. Dr. Shelly Luce is Executive Director of the private foundation and also claims she is the Executive Di-rector of the SMRBC.

The problem is that the California Public Re-source Code requires that administrative services and



personnel for the Commission “shall” be provided by the State Water Boards, not a parasitic non-profit cor-poration.

The result is that Dr. Luce directs the governing board of SMRBC to provide money to the very non-profit foundation which pays her. Tax documents from 2010 confirm that she received over \$100,000 from the foundation.

The same tax document shows Richard Bloom and Mark Gold were also directors of the private cor-poration which gets money from the very state com-mission they both serve on. They appear to vote pub-lic money into their own private group(s). SMRBC recently approved over \$600,000 for this purpose, and there has been a lot more public money wasted away.

Governing Board members of the SMBRC and some staff are required to disclose income to avoid conflicts of interest. The State Fair Political Practices Commission requires Dr. Luce, and Councilman Ro-sendahl and Mark Gold to file Financial Disclosure Forms to comply with the Fair Political Reform Act for instance.

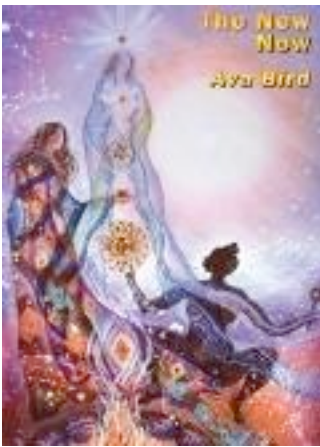
Dr. Luce's 2011 financial disclosure form fails to report the income she received from the foundation. Mark Gold did not disclose any income he may have received from Heal the Bay in 2010. Rosendahl did not file the legally required disclosure at all in 2011.

The SMBRC appears to be rife with conflict, it stifles public participation and is leading to the de-struction of the Ballona Wetlands. b

Book Review by Kathy Leonardo

“The New Now”

by Ava Bird



Poetry....some say it’s the highest of art forms....others consider it a bunch of nonsense. Whatever you believe, if it moves you, it has done its job.

Very much like an artist’s canvas, once the paint dries, the end result speaks to each person differently in a silent vi-sual expression.

The book, The New Now is an exploration of the Femi-nine. This compelling, yet sensitive book of poetry and prose will not only shock you, but also tempt you to lament for the unspoken voice that rises up within you.

A true feminist, Ava Bird not only struts her feathers, but bears her red-feathered breast to all. While her prose consists of honesty flavored with cries of injustice, the language used is not for the weak-hearted. Ava Bird’s targeted rants are obsessed with blatant Feminism, while allowing shadows of vulnerability (mixed with rage) to flicker throughout.

As you follow the path, you are carried off to the absurd, twisted with humor. At the same time, you witness tinges of sadness. Ava Bird scoffs at the man-made system set before us to follow. However, we are left smirking from her amusing observa-tions of sexism and the decay of society.

Like an abstract painting, Ava Bird takes you to the extreme, yet surprises you with her quirky sense of humor. A wonderful piece of work, Ava Bird revels in her own femininity and encourages all women to do the same. It’s a beautiful book and defi-nitely worth the read. Stimulate your senses and awaken your goddess!

For more info, or to purchase The “New Now”, go to <http://ompoem.com/> or www.ktrpromo.com. ☺



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poet ascends from the steps
(in memory of philomene long)

arms around, physical, the
four of us -- friends for forty
years -- on the steps of a church
occasion: death

bowl, clay, imperfect shining
imperceptible cracks
not the empty space inside
the tea bowl, but the human

material: transient
emptiness filled with love
for family, for god, for friends
& most important of all, love

for yourself
remembrance the third
be a rememberer, tell stories
keep humility alive

in the darkness, amidst the
swinging incense, i saw her
figure, dressed in white, head
bowed, hands formed in prayer

the larger poet cooked a ham
for the four of us
the steps were across from a park
where my son & i had played
basketball, where he had slid

down a slide, climbed the monkey
bars, swung -- we were all quiet
in santa monica, on 7th & california
we listened to the praises, celestial

as usual, the poet got more ink
on the obit page than she ever
got in the L.a. times book review
she stood in front of a wall

with her poem engraved on it
a massive heart attack caused
her death -- 15 seconds of pain
she had written well of funerals

with real physical details finely
observed, yes, she was romantic
yes, she wrote with an expanding
spiritual sense, yes, she had long
black hair like a raven, yes, yes

9 1 07
Harry E. Northup

10:52 Monday, May 16, 2011, 3731 Topanga
Canyon Road..... Awakened by the rush hour
pressing past. Began to wonder how long it
would last. Ejected here, to stretch our weary
legs. Climbed back into the cockpit, as the cogs
And wheels of the machinery spun round. Last
night's arrival hardly made a sound. Myself, I
promised I would write these lines. Myself, I
promised I would form designs, some imagery,
some evidence I'd found, As we went wandering
on the ancient mound. We narrowly escaped. Of
men and dogs, We two noteworthy specimens
put tags To let the neighborhood know that a
guest Or two came here to visit, and were
blessed..... RogerHouston and
C.J.Whitefang,Esquire

Goddess Venice

By Liv Zutphen

Goddess Venice spinning third eye pacific wheel
St. John of the sunshine hooker
Warrior who dances with an amoral moon
Sunflower wrapped in seaweed
Getting stoned in the afternoon
Genius Venus shining shaman
Psychic star sand through my shoes
In the tension of expansion
Where the root of green is blue
By the boulevard by the ocean
I am with you

the garden

like the gravity between me and the sea, the en-
ergy of what connects you to we.
pulling the grassrootz deeper, yielding fields of
dreams n greenery.
thriving the seeds of our family trees, all limbs
and leaves.
treating our lungs to the sweet gift supreme, the
kine air we breathe,
ability to walk talk and eat. everything alive
gives and receives.
weather be, positive or negatory. such beautiful
stories.
connecting this whole world, this earth, intrinsi-
cally, by the first degree.
L.O.V.E.
from pluscious sighs of the palm trees so balmy.
paradise at the offshore breeze that calms me.
from the hottest magma core to the icy top o the
cobalt sky,
simply all the true blessings this earth provides.
i n i give thanks and praise on the most i.
for this peace of Eden, our heaven. Bless you
and YeSi.

–Jimmy Valentine

Mother’s Day

By Mary Getlein

the women are coming out from the shadows
they’re coming to take back their land
they’re coming to take back the weapons of mass
destruction
they’re coming to take back the war machine
they’re coming to save their babies
they’re coming to remind us all of what this planet
is worth
that you can’t keep on piling up nuclear disasters,
horrible wars, depleted uranium:
sci-fi endings to an ordinary day.
that we need to have clean air, clean water, clean
food
not air, land and water sprinkled with nuclear
“dust”
we don’t want acid rain hitting the head of any
child,
much less our own.
we have to pledge allegiance to ourselves, not
some crazy nation bent on destruction.
it’s overkill times 4 billion years.
can we survive?
not at the hands of the military industrial complex.
any woman who has ever given birth feels
differently from then on.
you feel a kinship with all the other mothers on the
planet.
all the other mothers and all the little babies.
how would you feel if your baby came out of
your womb horribly deformed by nuclear dust?
the women are coming out from the shadows.
and they are MAD.

This Paper
Is A Poem

Swami X

Our resident guru underwent a hip replacement
operation last month and is convalescing.
Well-wishers may send cards or letters in care
of the Beachhead, PO Box 2, Venice CA 90294.
He’ll be glad to hear from you.

Little Hitlers

By Jim Smith

Little Hitlers in the garden.
Little Hitlers in the kitchen.
Little Hitlers at the dinner table.
Little Hitlers in the classroom.
Little Hitlers in the Black and Whites.
Little Hitlers at the bank.
Little Hitlers in the church.
Little Hitlers in the government.
Little Hitlers on the job.
Little Hitlers everywhere I go.
Little Hitlers listening, watching.
Little Hitlers full of hate.
Little Hitlers fighting other Little Hitlers.
Little Hitlers off to war.
Little Hitlers in my brain

KRAZY RHYMES

Scattershot ping-pong drip-dry hoop
military monetary nincompoop

abracadabra upsilon zebra quill
rumpelstiltskin pumpernickel whippoorwill

doodle bop doodlebug somersault slop
hiccup astronaut flimflam flop

punxsutawney cotton candy flugelhorn feign
upside-down cake cumberbund ichabod crane

myopic stetson zimbabwe track
early bird mugwort slipshod slack

mo’ watusi I love lucy hummingbird stomp
puddle jumper pedal pusher wigwam whomp.

– Hal Bogotch

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If The Dead Had Email
by Jim Smith

Hour of the Moon
by Hillary Kaye

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Advertising Graffiti Coming to Ocean Front Walk?

—continued from page 1

the city just over \$46,000, was abandoned after public outcry from communities in which the parks were located.

After listening to commission president Barry Sanders complain that the City Attorney’s office was unfairly jeopardizing so-called “public/private partnerships” by insisting the park advertising scheme would violate the city’s sign ordinance, committee members Rosendahl, Bernard Parks, and Greig Smith expressed support for selling advertising in the parks as a way of raising badly-needed funds for operations. Parks questioned whether the City Attorney’s advice “is more of an opinion as opposed to a legal basis” and Sanders said the commission should develop and administer its own sign regulations, as opposed to being governed by the citywide sign code that prohibits any new off-site advertising.

Sanders argued, as he has on several public occasions, that signage such as the Yogi Bear images that were to be hung from playground fences, attached to light standards, and wrapped over picnic tables, did not constitute advertising even though the images were identical to ones on billboards and other ads for the soon-to-open movie because they didn’t contain any information about movie times or locations. Committee member Paul Koretz strongly disputed this characterization, although he said he supported the concept of public/private partnerships to raise revenue. 🚲

Barry Sanders,
Kool-Aide
Salesman



Playground at Holmby Hills Park. Is this the future of the Ocean Front ?



Bill Rosendahl,
Drinking the
Kool-Aide?

Who’s Watching The Neighborhood Watch?

—continued from page 5

cross section of positions in the community. Even if moderate people do join the local Neighborhood Watch, they often enter into a police snitch culture that does not foster diverse points of view.

Some of our most public Venice Neighborhood Watch figures are Boston Dawna, Alex Thompson, Rick Feibusch, and Councilman Bill Rosendahl as the big top Neighborhood Watch promoter.

Boston Dawna, AKA Donna Chaet and mentor to Thompson, used to drive or walk around Venice at all hours taking the law into her own hands apparently under the premise that some people do not have civil rights. She moved back to Boston a few months ago.

Alex Thompson, AKA Alexandria Thompson (alias Amie Thompson, Amie M Thompson, Alexandria Thompson, Alexanderia Thompson), is a convicted felon that the LAPD allegedly has issued a police radio. Thompson is well known for stirring up community hate for homeless people or the locals who help the homeless people. She has a history of posting anti-homeless fairy stories or foul verbiage on YoVenice, a local blogsite, which included going after the Venice Justice Committee that helps poor people being unjustly treated and cited with infractions or misdemeanors (not felony convictions).

Thompson has been going out on the street to be the cheering section when homeless disabled people loose their RV, doggies, or get arrested. She also allegedly filed false criminal charges and went after Ivonne Guzman inappropriately.

Thompson also created an informant web site mimicking the City’s 311 info number. Her Venice311 site is yet another outlet for her to fill with misinformation meant to encourage hate. She is a busy little ex-con.

Rick Feibusch, aka Watchdawg, has also told fairy stories on YoVenice to stir things up, such as that one of the Justice Committee members was a scary convict parolee. Everything he said about him on YoVenice was a lie. Feibusch ran with the Thompson propaganda against the Justice Committee to encourage people to contact the Venice United Methodist Church to complain against the VJC, all based on a hate movement founded on lies. He repeatedly stated how scary all the homeless people are and that they are criminals.

The real crime is how our city is dealing with homelessness.

The majority of the homeless people I have been in contact with are not criminals. However, they are criminalized by an anti-poor, fear-based, pro-gentrification, quality of life, law enforcement campaign that costs tons of money and provides no real solutions. And they are not convicted felons either.

The main thing that these popular Venice Neighborhood Watch leaders have in common is that they appear to care less about basic human rights or constitutional rights when it comes to the poor, the odd, or the homeless.

Another interesting fact is that Thompson and Boston Dawna were the two main witnesses (neither

credible in my opinion) to an infamous RV Dumping incident last August 17. It was “ground zero” for an expanding wide scale movement to tow, arrest, ticket, and harass vehicle live-aboards in Venice. The repression was championed by Councilmember Rosendahl and multiple task forces.

The result was an unknown amount of city funds spent on hurting disabled people and yet another civil rights lawsuit. Then there is that \$750,000 Venice money for an RV parking program but with no enabling city ordinance in sight, no Venice parking lot, with housing for only a few of the RV people, at best. Any financially sane taxpaying person should feel pretty ripped off by this stuff.

Yet our city council person puts up a front pretending to care while riding the tsunami wave of gentrification crashing down on Venice. But caring is not violating human and civil rights of disabled poor people. Nor does building community mean co-opting people into a informant police state culture.

Final questions: Who is watching the Neighborhood Watch people that the police are empowering? And will there ever be an objective and independent community advisory to the LAPD? Or the City for that matter? Because even though civil rights lawsuits can be successful and the city pays out – the lawmakers, the police, and the city attorneys seem to take it in stride with no apparent repercussions. 🚲

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Community Pressure to Save Vera Davis Center Services Intensifies

—continued from page 3

Asked if a non-profit could access Prop K funds, Drucker said yes, if the City Council authorized a Request For Proposal (RFP), but indicated that it would most likely have to include plans for design and construction, and that the successful bidder might have to provide funds for any short-falls, a very certain likelihood, in his opinion.

According to some observers, the Venice Neighborhood Council has waffled on taking a

strong position in support of saving the services at the Vera Davis Center. Its failure to put an action item on its agenda raised debate at the last meeting on whether its subsequent vote in favor of the Center would be valid.

On June 16 at 6:30 pm there will be a Venice Town Council meeting at the Vera Davis Center to discuss saving the services at the Vera Davis Center. 🚲

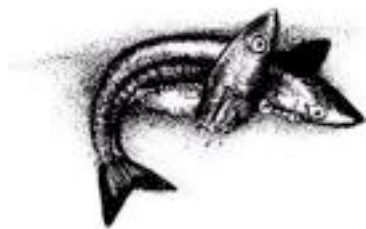
Community Events – day by day

Thursday, June 2

- 7pm - **James Joyce films and live readings.** Beyond Baroque. Free.
- 7-10pm - **World Music Night.** Talking Stick. \$10

Friday, June 3

- 7pm - **HOBO Films/Live Readings.** Beyond Baroque. Free.
- 7pm - **First Friday.** Open shops, food wagons, lots of people. No music. AKB. Free.
- 10:30pm - **Grunion Sex Party** at Venice Breakwater Rocks at the end of Windward.



Saturday, June 4

- 9am-3pm - **Venice Library Summer Book and Art Sale.** AK Public Library.
- 11am-5pm - **After! Art Walk** with 100 works of art for sale at **Venice Family Clinic.** 622 Rose Ave. Call 31-664-7916 to view art in advance. Free.
- 7-10pm - **Opening Night Reception of Norde-lo's political cartoons: "Humor From My Pen."** SPARC Gallery. Donation \$10.

Sunday, June 5

- 3pm - **First Sunday Open Reading.** Live music/book sale with refreshments. Beyond Baroque. Free.
- 5pm - **Open Reading,** poetry and prose with **The Workshop for Publication.** Sign up at 4:45pm. Beyond Baroque. Free.

Monday, June 6

- 7-10pm - **Mozaic: Spoken Word.** The Talking Stick. Free.

Tuesday, June 7

- 7pm - **Mindful Meditation** session led by Henry Schipper. AK Public Library. Free.

Wednesday, June 8

- 7-10pm - **Suzy Williams at Danny's Deli.** Truly amazing jazz/blues. Free.

Thursday, June 9

- 7-9pm - **Neighborhood Watch: "Safer Communities Block by Block."** How to start one on your block. Mark Twain Middle School, 2224 Walgrove Ave. Free.

Friday, June 10

- 7pm - **Cave Gallery's Opening "Removing the Safety Net."** 1108 AKB. Free.

Saturday, June 11

- 9am-12pm - **WE Garden Workday will plant/weed** for Japanese popcorn, pumpkins, corn, squash and dahlias for September. Westminster Elementary School. Free.
- 6-10pm - **Grassroots Acoustica Fundraiser.** Talking Stick. Free.
- 10:30am-12pm - **Assemblymember Betsy Butler** invites the public to an **Interactive State Budget Workshop.** Santa Monica College Bundy Campus, Room 123, 3171 South Bundy Dr., LA.
- 7:30pm - **Three poets read.** Beyond Baroque. \$7, students, seniors, children \$5, members free.

Monday, June 13

- 9:15pm - **A Night of Festive Musical Goodness** hosted by Danny Moynahan. Talking Stick. Free.

Wednesday, June 15

- 11:30am - **Toddler Storytime,** newborn to 3 years old. Venice Library. Contact Library for other toddler story events. AK Public Library. Free.

Thursday, June 16

- 6pm - **Venice Art Crawl.** Find the maps online veniceartcrawl.com or go to OFW and Windward. Free.
- 6:30-10pm - **Venice Town Council Meeting** on keeping services at the Vera Davis Center and keeping the Venice Post Office where it is. **All Venetians may speak/vote.** Vera Davis Center.
- 7pm - **Bioneers Meeting on Mindful Meditation,** open to the public. G2 Gallery. Free.

Friday, June 17

- 7pm - **Dog Days Reading and Pot Luck dinner.** Beyond Baroque. Free.

Saturday, June 18

- 6-10pm - **Jazz Funk Fest.** Talking Stick. Free.

Sunday, June 19

- 2pm - **Open reading,** hosted by Chelsea Bayouth. Beyond Baroque. Free.

Tuesday, June 21

- 7-9:30pm - **VNC Board Meeting.** Westminster School Auditorium.

Friday, June 24

- 2pm - **Last Weekend for Zircon and Wish Aerial Circus: "Alice's Wonderland"** at Robin's Sculpture Garden, 1632 Abbot Kinney Blvd. \$25.
- 6pm - **Venice High Centennial** screening of **"Grease"** on the campus football field (as originally shown in movie). Free.
- 7:30-10pm – **Subversive Cinema** with **Danny Plotnick films.** 212 Pier. Free.
- 7:30pm - **Detroit Rock poetry.** Beyond Baroque. \$7, students, seniors, children \$5, members free.

Saturday, June 25

- 7:30pm - **Get-Lit Slam Team Poetry Readings** by the Git Players, a teen poetry troupe from inner city high schools throughout Los Angeles. Beyond Baroque. \$7, students, seniors, children \$5, members free.

Sunday, June 26

- 10am - Come join the **Venice High Centennial Parade (with Skateboards following to beat the Guinness World Record)** starting at Pacific and Venice Blvd to Venice High. Free.

Friday, July 1

- 7pm - **A double Venice poetry book launching: "If the Dead Had Email" by Jim Smith and "Hour of the Moon" by Hillary Kaye.** Refreshments/signed books available. Beyond Baroque. Free.

Get Your Local Event Listed

Email your time, date and a brief description to Calendar@freevenice.org by the 20th of the month.

Free Venice Beachhead • June 2011 •

Calendar Compiled By Karl Abrams

Location Guide

- Abbot Kinney Public Library, 501 S. Venice Blvd, 310-821-1769.
- Beyond Baroque, 681 Venice Blvd. 310-822-3006.
- Burton Chace Park, 13650 Mindanao Way, marinadelrey.lacounty.gov
- Danny's Deli, 23 Windward Ave.
- Electric Lodge, 1416 Electric Ave, 310-306-1854 - electriclodge.org
- G2 Gallery, 1503 Abbot Kinney Blvd 310-452-2842.
- Hal's Bar and Grill, 1349 Abbot Kinney Blvd., 310-396-3105 - halsbarandgrill.com
- Oakwood Recreation Center, 757 California Ave.
- Pacific Resident Theatre, 703½ Venice Blvd. 822-8392 pacificresidenttheatre.com
- SPARC - Social and Public Art Resource Center, 685 Venice Blvd. 822-9560 x15.
- Talking Stick Coffee Lounge, 1411c Lincoln Blvd. 450-6052 - thetalkingstick.net
- United Methodist Church and Auditorium, 2210 Lincoln Blvd. (at Victoria).
- Vera Davis Center, 610 California Ave. 310-305-1865.
- Westminster Elementary School, 1010 Abbot Kinney Blvd. (enter auditorium from Westminster Ave.) 310-606-2015.

Ongoing Events

Music

- 8pm-12am - **Hal's Bar and Grill features Live Jazz,** Sunday and Monday nights. Free.
- 8:30pm - **TKO Comedy's "Open Mic"** for comics, musicians. 212 Pier. Free. Every Thursday.
- 12-2pm - Saturday & Sunday; **Music at Uncle Darrow's.** 2560 Lincoln Blvd. Free.
- 5-9pm – **Venice Street Legends.** Venice Bistro, OFW & Dudley. Every Wednesday. Free.
- 6-10pm - 2nd Thursday - **Psychedelic Surf Rock.** Mollusk, 1600 Pacific Ave. Free.

Movies

- 5:30pm - **Abbot Kinney Public Library Thursday Movie Night.** Call 310-821-1769 for title.

Kids

- 6:30pm -**Abbot Kinney Public Library Children's Pajama Storytime.** Second, fourth Tuesday evenings. Free.
- 6-8pm - **McLuhan-Finnegans Wake Reading Club.** Lloyd Taber - Marina Del Rey Library, 4533 Admiralty Way. First Tuesday of the month. Free.

Miscellaneous

- 7-10pm - **MOM: Meditations On Media.** 3rd Wednesdays. Beyond Baroque. Free.
- 6-10pm - **7 Dudley Cinema** - 3rd Mondays at Talking Stick. Free.
- 11:30am-2:30pm – **The Venice Oceanarium** (a museum without walls). Venice Pier. Every Sunday, weather permitting. Free.

Computers

- **Venice Library** offers a variety of **Free Computer Classes.** 310-821-1769.
- **Vera Davis Center** offers **free computer use:** M-Th 10am-Noon and 1pm-3pm; Fri 1-3pm.

Food

- **Vera Davis Center.** 12:30pm - 2nd and 4th Thursdays - **Free Food** Distribution.
- **Vera Davis Center** - Sign up for **Food Stamps** (EBT Cards). Call for date and time. 310-305-1865.
- **1st Baptist Church:** 5-7pm Mondays - **Hot Meals;** Pre-packs: 2-3:30pm Saturdays, Westminster & 7th St.

Support Your Local Nonprofit Newspaper

The Beachhead Calendar is a public non-profit service to the community of Venice. Our goal is to list free events within Venice. If you charge for your event, please consider taking out a \$25 or larger advertisement.

Try the People's Operating System
Ubuntu Linux installed on your PC at your Venice/SM location only \$25. You will still have MS Windows but now you will have a choice. I also repair PCs and Macs at your place or mine.



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Venice High School
 A Fun-Filled...
 4 Day Celebration
 June 24, 25, 26 and 27
 www.venicehighcentennial.com

Venice High School
 Racing Not Drifting
GREASE
JUNE 24

Friday, June 24
 (Gates open at 6PM) ~ Join us on the Watson Football Field for a screening of GREASE. How incredibly amazing it will be to bring your family and see Grease right where it was filmed - at Venice High! And not only will you see the film but you can feel like you're a part of the cast by singing-along! Come in your 50's best and enter our 50's Grease character contest & best 50's look. For more info on our Friday night movie screening please contact:
 GreaseVHS2011@yahoo.com

Saturday, June 25 (Doors open at 7AM) ~ Wake up and join us for a Pancake Breakfast at 7AM. And, after the Opening Ceremony & Blessing, the Classic cars will be lined up on the Watson Football Field for show. Witness the unveiling of our Walk of Fame pavers at 2PM, enjoy live bands that will perform all day and relax to the smooth sounds of the Crescendo Jazz Concert in the auditorium at 8pm. Bring your family, enjoy our festival with games for all ages. There will be food and merchandise vendors from 9am-6pm busy cooking and introducing you to their products. Wander around and please support them.

Monday, June 27
 The 17th Annual Gondo Golf Classic will be held at Robinson Ranch Gold Club in Santa Clarita. Please contact Margo at VHS for more info - 310.577.4200 ext 3.

FESTIVAL

FAMILY FUN

Venice Blvd
CAR SHOW
June 25th



Car Show • Saturday, June 25
 10 AM ~ 4 PM
 Registration & Contact information:
 vhsacarshow@yahoo.com
 • Vendor Booths
 • Trophies
 • \$20.00 pre-registration
 • \$25.00 day of show (cash only)
 Register by June 10, 2011
 Limited Space
 Download .pdf registration form at:
 www.venicehighcentennial.com
 (under 'Latest News')

Sunday, June 26 (Lineup 9AM, Procession 10AM) ~ Take part or cheer on the VHS Parade with Grand Marshall, Astronaut Walter Cunningham leading the way. Venice alum and local dignitaries will ride in the parade from Venice Beach to Venice High. Following these cars will be skateboarders who will attempt to break the Guinness World Records™ for the most skateboarders riding in a parade. As the parade ends at VHS ~ the celebration will continue with bands, games, food and festival fun.

Crescendos
June 25

The Crescendos, Venice High's award-winning jazz ensemble, is reuniting for a one-night-only concert on June 25, 2011 at 8 p.m. in the Venice High School Auditorium. Whether you were fortunate enough to attend Venice at the same time as these great musicians, or if you know Pete Christleib's face and sound (he sat by Doc Severinsen in Johnny Carson's band), or love Alan Kaplan's Lonely Town CD, or are blown away by the music of John and Jeff Clayton's Clayton Hamilton Orchestra, and all their amazing work worldwide, then you know great jazz music and you know this is not a concert to miss. Limited tickets available:
 www.venicehighcentennial.com/store

GAMES

FOOD

Come join the parade...!
 we will attempt to break the Guinness World Records™ for the most skateboarders riding in a parade.
 Now only \$1 to register @
 www.imathlete.com/events/VHSCentennialCelebrationGuinness
 WorldRecordSkateboardParadeChallenge
 For info contact: VHSskateboarder@yahoo.com



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July 23 & 24, 2011 1800 Ocean Front Walk

GET THE NEWS BEFORE IT HAPPENS IN THE FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD -Become a Sustainer today.

On March 1, the Free Venice Beachhead featured this Tsunami art by Marina Valentina. The issue appeared ten days before the Japanese earthquake and Tsunami struck on March 11.

