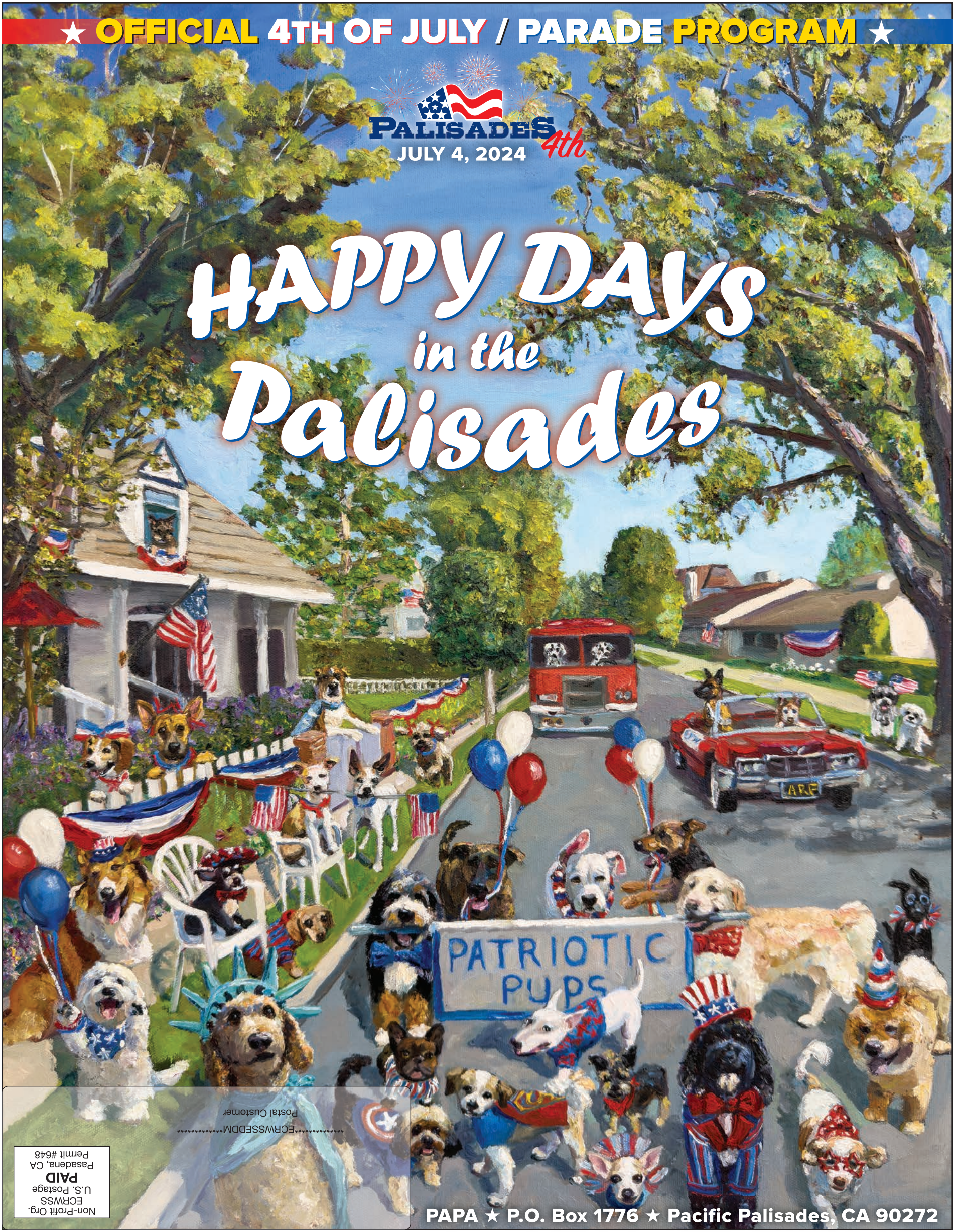


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PALISADES WILL ROGERS 5K & 10K RACE COMMITTEE



Mountain Fifes and Drums will once again march in the parade.

Photo: Rich Schmitt Photography

PACIFIC PALISADES FOURTH OF JULY TIMELINE

47th Annual Will Rogers 5/10K Run, Kid's Fun Run

- 6-11 a.m. Temescal Shuttle
- 6:30 a.m. Registration
- 8:15 a.m. 5/10 K Start
- 9:30 a.m. Kids Fun Run

76th Annual Palisades Parade

- 11:30 a.m. Via de la Paz closed between Antioch and De Pauw
- Noon Bowdoin closed between Swarthmore and Via de la Paz
- 1-1:30 p.m. Patriotic Pups assemble at Palisades Elementary
- 1:15 p.m. Kids on Bikes at Palisades Elementary for judging
- 1:45 p.m. All parade units on the course
- 2 p.m. Skydivers land on Sunset
- 2:05 p.m. Parade starts on Via de la Paz

Food and Fireworks

- 6 p.m. Gates open at PaliHi Football Stadium (Temescal and Bowdoin) for food trucks, kids activities and a DJ (Tickets available ONLY online at Palisades4th.com)
- 8:50 p.m. Gates close
- 9 p.m. Fireworks

Street Information and Closures

NO STOPPING, NO PARKING signs will be posted along the race and parade route prior to July 4. Please observe the signs, so events can start on time.

Do not leave cars on affected streets if you plan to be out of town. Cars will be towed.

Chairs are allowed along the parade route after 6 p.m. on July 3.

RACE CLOSURES

Hard closures start at 6:30 a.m. near the race start by the library and Palisades Rec Center.

People will not be allowed to turn from Pacific Coast Highway to Chautauqua starting at 7:15 a.m. Those running in the race can park on Temescal Canyon Road where a shuttle will operate from 6 to 11:30 a.m. on a loop about every 10 to 15 minutes taking runners to the start.

The Huntington Palisades neighborhood streets including Alma Real Drive, Corona del Mar, Toyopa Drive and Pampas Ricas will be closed. Drummond Street from Toyopa to Chautauqua; Ocampo from Drummond to Alma Real will be closed to traffic. Ralph's parking lot on Sunset will not be open.

Sunset Boulevard from Amalfi Drive to Monument Street will be closed in both directions from 6:30 to 11 a.m. Chautauqua Boulevard north of Sunset until Drummond and Drummond from Chautauqua to Toyopa will also be closed. The roads will reopen after the racecourse is closed at about 11 a.m.

PARADE CLOSURES

Via de la Paz closes at 11:30 between Antioch and De Pauw. The parade route and staging areas, which include Sunset, Swarthmore, Drummond Street, Toyopa, La Cruz Drive and Alma Real, **will close to vehicles at 1:30 p.m. No parking is in effect on those streets before the parade.** Streets will not reopen until after the parade route is cleared, which is estimated at 4 p.m. The Ralphs parking lot closed from 6 a.m. until 4 p.m., but the store will be open for business.

FIREWORKS CLOSURES

No parking on either side of Bowdoin from noon to 11 p.m. Bowdoin Street, in front of Pali High, will be closed at noon until 10 p.m.; the field side will be closed to through traffic starting at 4 until 10 p.m.

For holders of pre-paid tickets, the stadium gate at Bowdoin/ Temescal Canyon will open at 6 p.m. and close at 8:50 p.m. No pedestrian passage between the pre-paid parking lot at Pali High and the Temescal side stadium entrance will be allowed from 8:50 p.m. until after the area has been cleared by the Fire Marshal.

North and southbound Temescal Canyon Road will close shortly before 9 p.m. to Palisades-bound traffic with no turns from PCH.

NOTE: Bowdoin Street will be closed to pedestrians walking from Erskine/Northfield about 30 minutes before the fireworks start at 9 p.m. until the area has been cleared by the Fire Marshal after the fireworks.



Welcome to the parade!

Photo: Rich Schmitt Photography

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Grand Marshal Steve Guttenberg Brings Optimism to the Fourth

By SUE PASCOE

Steve Guttenberg, one of the most beloved residents in Pacific Palisades, will serve as Grand Marshal in this year's Fourth of July Parade.

"I've lived here for 37 years and every day in the Palisades is like a vacation," the actor and author said.

He has participated in the Will Rogers 5/10K Run, rode in the parade as an honorary mayor and watched the fireworks show at Palisades High, but his favorite part of the day is "the enthusiasm of the people. There is an air of delight and town togetherness for the various events," he said.

A co-star in movies such as *Three Men and a Cradle*, *Diner*, *Cocoon* and *Police Academy*, Guttenberg received acclaim on Broadway in Woody Allen's play, *Honeymoon Hotel* and more recently for his one-man show, *Tales from the Guttenberg Bible*, based on his 2010 memoir.

Guttenberg is the author of three books: a middle-school book, *Kids from D.I.S.C.O.*, *The Guttenberg Bible: A Memoir* and *Time to Thank: Caregiving for My Hero*, which he is currently promoting across the country. The book is a poignant autobiographical story of growing up with his father, Stanley, who was his best friend.

His father stood by him throughout his career, as Guttenberg became the toast of Hollywood, and was an important sounding board. But when he had to undergo dialysis, Steve became one of the caregivers who learned how to do it so his father could receive the treatment at home.

Time to Thank is a page-turner, with honest emotions—and funny stories.

When Guttenberg became the town's honorary mayor in 2002 (serving until 2006), he thanked his mother, Ann, for his "election."

Arnie Wishnick, the late Palisades Chamber of Commerce executive director, kept asking Steve to be the mayor. And Steve kept putting him off.

"Then Arnie started asking my mom, telling her that I should be the mayor," Guttenberg said.

One day he was having lunch with his mom at Mort's Deli [on Swarthmore] and sitting at a table across from them was Anthony Hopkins [2000 mayor] and Martin Short [1998 mayor]. Hopkins had just played the imprisoned forensic psychiatrist Dr. Hannibal Lecter in the 2001 movie *Hannibal*.

"My mom went up to Tony and said, 'Excuse me, Hannibal, should my son be mayor?'"

Hopkins replied, "It would be a wonderful thing."

Before his "political" career, Guttenberg rode in the PAPA parade in 1997, but this



Steve Guttenberg

Photo: Sophie Elgort

family-friendly parade was quite tame compared to the Mardi Gras Bacchus Parade in 1993.

"I was king of Bacchus, it was an exciting week of Mardi Gras," Guttenberg said. "My dad rode with me."

Steve has also taken martial arts classes with Gerry Blanck and he teamed with Wishnick to produce a play, *The Marvelous Wonderettes*, at Theatre Palisades.

Making his producing debut in 2014, Guttenberg was confident and told this editor, "Arnie is my leader. I do what he wants. Plus, the food is good." One of the most important duties of a Theatre Palisades producer is to make sure the cast is well-fed.

In describing the difference between acting on stage and film, Guttenberg said: "Stage is a blast when you are sailing along. When it's stuck [not working], it's not so fulfilling."

By contrast, "With film you only have to

hit a home run once every set up."

When Wishnick and Guttenberg learned that tickets were scarce for opening night, they were delighted but also wary.

"I'm waiting for my invitation," Guttenberg said. "As of today, I'm number eight on the waiting list."

Asked if his producing partner could help him out, he replied, "Arnie is number seven."

Guttenberg grew up on Long Island and started his acting career in 1976, when he was 17. He flew to Hollywood. His parents gave him \$300 and two weeks.

After landing, he found his way into Paramount Studios and took over an office in the Lucille Makeup Building. He strung a phone line from a nearby stage and started making calls to casting directors, agents and producers.

Whenever anyone pressed him for creden-



Steve Guttenberg ran the 10K last year.

Photo: Rich Schmitt Photography

tials, Guttenberg turned the tables by asking for their name so he could report them to his father whom he said ran the studio.

Guttenberg soon landed a Kentucky Fried Chicken commercial, which led to the television movie *Something for Joey* and films *The Chicken Chronicles* and *Rollercoaster*.

Yet after a year in Hollywood, he decided it wasn't for him, and he went home and enrolled in State University of New York at Albany. He was only three months into the semester when a Hollywood producer called and offered him a co-starring role with Gregory Peck in *The Boys from Brazil*.

He talked it over with his dad because Steve had qualms about an actor's lifestyle and the uncertainty of being a freelance worker. After speaking to both parents, he went to bed.

He recalls, "I woke up the next morning with my dad sitting at the foot of my bed."

"Anything, Steven?" his dad asked.

"I want to do it, Dad."

"Good choice," his dad said. "And let's see what happens next. That's the excitement of life—what's next."

Guttenberg told *Circling the News*, "I've lived that way ever since."

Look for him this summer in the movie *Floater*, directed by Rachel Israel. Co-stars Jackie Tohn and Sarah Podemski return to work at their childhood Jewish summer camp. Their job? To mentor the camp's misfits, aka the "floaters."

"The cast of this movie is honestly bananas—it's so Jewish and so iconic," said one reviewer.

Guttenberg will also be in a series on ABC this fall, *High Potential*.

If you want to check in with him before watching him in the parade, go to his Instagram account @steveguttenberg.



47th Will Rogers Race Kicks Off at 8 a.m.

By SUE PASCOE
Photos: RICH SCHMITT

About 3,125 runners participated in last year's Will Rogers 5/10 K Race. This year organizers anticipate another healthy field as people rise early to run through the streets of Pacific Palisades.

After the presentation of the color guard and the National Anthem, sung this year by Mia Ruhman, the runners will be off, following a Lexus pace car.

The race begins at the Palisades Library, and winds through the Huntington Palisades, ending back at the library. Those completing the 10K continue down Sunset and then the switchbacks at Will Rogers State Park before circling through the Alphabet Streets and back to the library.

Promptly at 9:30 a.m., the Kids Fun

Run will take place.

Race organizers Thomas Hathaway and James Klein gave a huge shout out to the community for its participation. Money after expenses goes to Palisades Optimist Club, which not only supports education and treatment centers for juvenile offenders and at-risk children, but also gives grants to local nonprofits.

The 10K Race was started by Brian Shea and Chris Carlson, who had just finished running a Brentwood 10K in 1977 and thought it would be great to bring a run to the Palisades. A group of men who ran together, the Ridge Runners, organized the first run in 1978 to augment the town's 4th of July activities.

Winning the 2023 10K was Henry Didden, 19, of Woodland Hills, who outraced 376 others in his category. The former Palisadian attended Viewpoint for high school,

where he ran cross country. He attends Bucknell University in Pennsylvania, where he is on the Division I cross country and track team. This year in a Bucknell cross country recap, the coach wrote: "Sophomore Henry Didden continued his leading-the-herd mentality by repeating as the highest-placed Bison. Didden finished 22nd (25:38.9), only missing the top 20 by three seconds. Didden placed 47th at the Championships in 2022.

First in the women's division was Laura Osman, 42, of Encino, who ran against 223 entries in her category, with a time of 38.59, which is a 6:17 min/mile. She was an All-American cross country and track runner at UC Davis and is now a Cal Coast Masters runner. The mother of three, she works as a part-time English professor at Valley College.

The 5K was started after a particularly hot 4th of July in 1986. One race organizer re-

More Race Info on Page 15

members "the 10K race sent 20 in ambulances to local hospitals and it was on every news channel that evening." The 5K started the next year to give runners a choice of either distance. In 2023, there were 1656 males entered and 869 females.

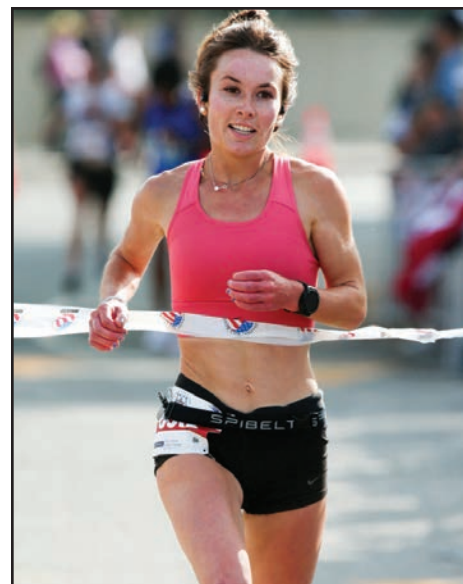
The 5K winner was a former Palisades High School cross country and track standout, Noah Wexler, 19, who finished in 16 minutes flat. He attends the University of Michigan, where in addition to studies, he worked as a football manager.

Kaitlin Tanner (San Clemente) 26, took first for the women in a time of 18:45 with a 6:02 min/mi pace. She was a standout at Loyola College Prep in Shreveport, La. She attended Texas A & M, where she ran track and cross country for the Aggies.

2023 5K WINNERS

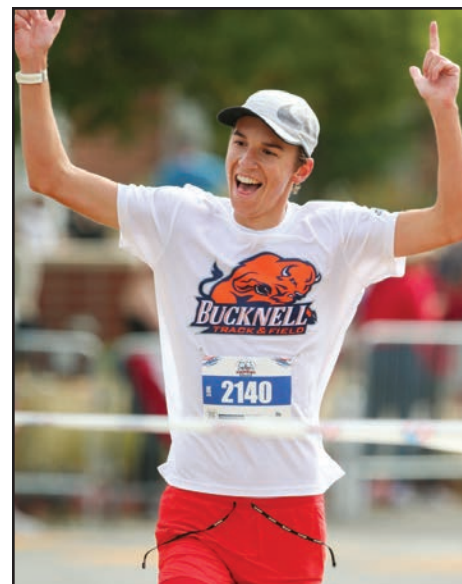


Noah Wexler

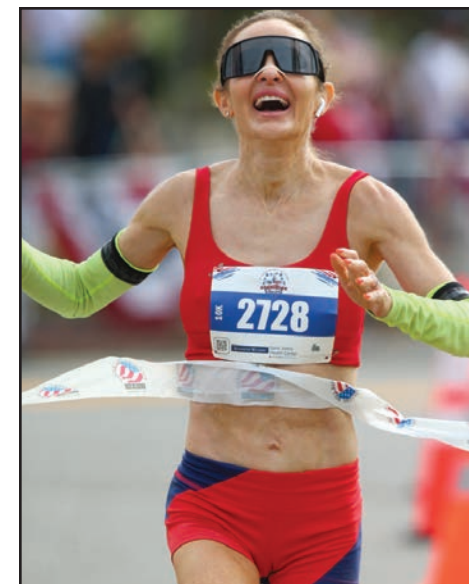


Kaitlin Tanner

2023 10K WINNERS



Henry Didden



Laura Osman

Kids Fun Run Features Anthem Choir

The Kids Fun Run, sponsored by Laura Brau, will once again be headed by Danielle Ariola, a broker associate/realtor with Compass Realty.

This is a noncompetitive run that starts at 9:30 a.m. after most of the 5K and 10K runners have finished. (Visit: Palisades4th.com). All children 10 years and younger are invited to run the 1/2 mile loop, that starts and finishes at the entrance to the Palisades Park on the corner of Alma Real and Toyopa.

Ariola, who was born and raised in the Palisades, volunteered in 2019 with the run. The next year she was asked to take it over. It might have been a daunting task with more than 300 kids registering, and then running, but she said, "I am just so grateful that my predecessors have left me with a very organized and oiled machine."

"Watching these kids at the starting line has to be the highlight of the day for me," Ariola said. "The anticipation and intensity on their faces while waiting for the start is by far the greatest reward."

A clown is usually at the front of the line, entertaining the masses, while young runners wait for the start.

Spectators are in for a treat this year because the National Anthem will be sung by a chorus of kids who are trained by Sarah Wellman and include: Aurora Klein, Elliot and Parker MacFarland, Lainey Berman,



The start of the Kids Fun Run in 2024 was truly exciting.

Photo: Rich Schmitt Photography

Hannah Shockley, Caroline Ouellette, Dylan and Liv Ellison, Calyssa and Amalia Abanto-Mortimer, Syrus Mortimer, Lily Malin and Quinn Wellman.

The start of the race can be nerve wrack-

ing because inevitably someone trips when the starting horn goes off, but "the energy and the excitement is infectious and is really what makes this a fun event," Ariola said.

"One year, a runner took off so fast that

his shoe flew off, and he just kept running," she said. "I am hoping for another fun year."

"We are so looking forward to seeing everyone on the 4th and, as always, hoping for a record-breaking turnout," Ariola said.



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Caruso

Skydivers Start the Parade

By LAUREL BUSBY

A plane crash on April 22, 1992, changed Tom Falzone's life forever, and ended the lives of a dozen of his friends.

The skydiver was part of a four-person skydiving team training for the national championship in Perris, California, when their plane with 22 people on board took off and rose briefly into the air before plummeting to the ground.

Then 32, Falzone was one of the six survivors. He broke his back and fractured his neck, but he was one of the least injured. One good friend was left paralyzed, and two of his teammates died, including their backup photographer, Dave Clark, and James Layne, 21, an "amazingly athletic and vibrant" skydiver. The accident stemmed from contaminated fuel that caused one engine of their De Haviland Twin Otter to fail, while a pilot's error in addressing the problem led to its quick descent.

"I'm not proud that I survived," said Falzone, 64, who still recalls the wing tip hitting the ground before the rest of the plane crashed and he lost consciousness. "I didn't do anything special. Some people tell me that I was meant to live, but I wasn't meant to live. It's where I sat. It was an accident, and there's not a day that goes by that I don't think about my friends."

Watching so many cherished friends suddenly lose their lives changed Falzone. The accident increased his appreciation for every moment that he continues to live and skydive, while also teaching him the difference between life's hassles, which are manageable, and true tragedies that ripple out to affect not only the sufferer, but their loved ones. Safety also became a huge priority for him.

"I feel so fortunate," said Falzone, who will join his long-time skydiving pals Anne Helliwell and Scott Smith in starting off the Pacific Palisades Fourth of July Parade this year. "Not too many people who did something athletically in their 20s, still get to do it in their 60s . . . It does take a lot of effort, and it does take a lot of skill. It's not a sport



Scott Smith

Photo courtesy of Scott Smith



Tom Falzone coaches the skydiving team at West Point, seen here after jumping into New York's CitiField.

Photo courtesy of Tom Falzone

that is very forgiving . . . Skydiving can ruin your life very quickly."

Falzone, who coaches the skydiving team for the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, makes safety his goal when jumping himself or leading his team. He has done more than 17,000 skydives, and, aside from one sprained ankle, he has never been hurt, even though he has participated in demanding national competitions, world-record group jumps, and tricky demonstration jumps, including the annual landing on Sunset Boulevard and Swarthmore to start off the parade.

The parade landing site is narrow, especially when viewed from 3,000 feet, and there can be turbulence and cross winds to manage, followed by a hard landing on asphalt, Falzone said. Every year, he and his friends fly over the Pacific before the jump, and he checks the wind conditions by looking for white caps among the waves.

"If I see white caps, I know we're going to have a tough time," Falzone said.

But the trio always make the jump look easy as they float down to a roaring crowd. Those safe landings are an imperative for Falzone. In fact, his proudest achievement comes neither from his individual achievements as a skydiver, nor from his West Point cadets' victories over the dominant Air Force skydivers, but from his team's safety record. With more than 90,000 cadet jumps during his 15-year tenure as coach, Falzone has only had one cadet suffer an injury, and that student recovered.

"That is what I'm proudest of—not gold medals I've won, not how many jumps I've done," Falzone said. "Safety doesn't come from being chilled out. I am extremely strict about what I do and what I teach."

During more than three and a half years on the team, his cadets make around 700 jumps, including complex demonstration

jumps into the stadiums of the N.Y. Jets, Mets, and Yankees. They also train for competitions where they do tricks and maneuvers in small groups as they fall through the air. They are invariably thrilled every time they land safely.

"Earning a spot on the team is an honor, but it's also stressful," Falzone said. Because of the short time span of each jump, "they can only learn seconds at a time. It's not like you can go to the batting cage and practice. You can't do it repetitively. It's a tough sport and a sport of patience. At the same time, it's fabulous to see them go from freshman to seniors."

Each year, ten new freshmen join the team after an extensive tryout process, and generally that group is five women and five men, although the most recent sophomore class featured six women and four men for the first time. As their coach, Falzone said he endeavors to build both skydiving and life skills in the cadets.

"We're here to build and mentor young men and women—make them believe in themselves when they don't and help them have the courage to fail," he said.

The job also allows the PaliHi graduate to spend his days skydiving, a sport that enchanted him at 26 years old after he happened to catch a television advertisement featuring parachutists. Following his first euphoric jump, he began spending his weekends leaping out of airplanes and he developed a treasured friend group, including his fellow parade jumpers, Smith, 61, a former U.S. Freestyle Champion who has either performed or coordinated jumps in numerous movies, including *Iron Man* and *Godzilla*, and Helliwell, 64, who participated in the first Palisades parade jump in 1991.

Helliwell is also a world-renowned BASE jumper, a parachute designer, an emergency

room nurse, and a pilot, who flies Twin Otters for Skydive Perris and can do both aerobatics and flights to combat forest fires.

"She's wonder woman," Falzone said. "She's really quite amazing."

Both Helliwell and Smith also participated last year in a world-record group formation skydive in Perris with 99 other jumpers aged 60 and up. Falzone couldn't join them because he was in New York, but he did recently lead his cadets on a jump into CitiField for a Mets game. They took off in a helicopter with jumbo jets flying by, then leapt over the stadium.

"If I could sell in liquid form the adrenaline we get from landing something like that, I would be rich," Falzone said. "The adrenaline, the satisfaction, the camaraderie. It's such an incredible feeling."



Annie Helliwell at the Parade.

Photo: Morgan Genser



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Bikes are first on the parade route. Photo: Rich Schmitt Photography



Photographer Joy Daunis captured these two contestants, after they were declared among the winners.



Photos: Joy Daunis

Decorate Your Bike: Win a Prize

The Yogurt Shoppe, located at 873 Swarthmore, will continue its decade-long tradition of sponsoring the bike unit in the July 4th parade. Additionally, and more importantly, the entries will be judged in a “Best Decorated Bike/Scooter Contest” and prizes will be awarded.

Four lucky winners will earn a \$50 gift card that is valid at any one of the three Yogurt Shoppes or Toppings on Via. Some lucky winners may have their photos appear in next year’s parade tab.

The proud parents of last years’ winners were Justin Pender, Holly Munson, Dan Walsh and John Ryan.

The process is simple: after decorating the bikes/scooters at home, kids are asked to come to the parade assembly point at the corner of Via de la Paz and Bowdoin, by Palisades Elementary at 1 p.m. on July 4th to enter the contest and have parents sign the waivers to participate in the parade. Or before the parade go to the website, print it, fill out the waiver and bring it to the parade. Visit: www.palisades4th.com

Judging will finish in time for the 2 p.m. parade start. “Kids on Bikes,” lead the parade after the sky divers land.

There is no adult supervision provided by parade organizers along the route, so parents are asked to walk

with their children in the parade. Mom, dad, grandpa, grandma and other siblings can all reunite with riders at the end of the parade route at the Palisades Library, 861 Alma Real.

The Yogurt Shoppe, a non-corporate and non-franchised, self-serve frozen yogurt shoppe that prides itself on offering only the finest quality goods at shops in Pacific Palisades, Brentwood, Santa Monica and Toppings on Via de la Paz.

There are 15 different flavors, more than 36 different toppings, and there are also non-dairy, non-fat and low-sugar options.

Who Will Win for Best Float?

Floats that received the two \$500 prizes last year were entered by the Will Rogers Ranch Foundation and Resilient Palisades. The prizes were sponsored by the American Legion Post 283 Auxiliary.

The Will Rogers “float” incorporated ropers, horses and a float complete with a paper cutout of Will Rogers. Judges wrote, “One of the standout features of their presentation was the incorporation of numerous decorated cars, all adorned with 4th of July-themed decorations. This innovative idea not only added a visually captivating aspect to the display but also symbolized the American tradition of parades and processions that are often seen on this patriotic day.”

In addition to the float and the horses, there were also youth walking, while lassoing. Resilient Palisades was recognized for the

Most Creative Use of the Palisades 4th of July Theme, “Diamond Jubilee in 2023,” which integrated the non-profit’s mission of addressing the climate and ecological crisis into their float presentation.

The “Vegan for Everything” float was the brainchild of the Vegan Solutions team led by Aleks Pavlovic. The 10-foot carton of soy/oat/almond/hemp milk was built by Resilient Palisades team members the day before the parade.

The first time the prize was given for the best decorated float was in 2022 and a check for \$1,000 was given to the Palisades-Malibu YMCA. In 2023, the auxiliary decided to give two \$500 prizes to encourage greater float participation in the parade. Who will win the prizes in 2024?



The Resilient Palisades float took home a prize in 2023.

Photo: Joy Daunis



Wilken was inducted into the International Surfboard Builders Hall of Fame. Photo: Bobby Zee

Rich Wilken:

By SUE PASCOE

For more than four decades, Rich Wilken has volunteered for almost every job needed on the Fourth of July in Pacific Palisades: the morning 5/10 Run, the afternoon parade, and the evening fireworks program. The only position he hadn't held was to serve as parade marshal—until PAPA President Matthew Rodman called in mid-May.

"Deann and I were in Hawaii celebrating our 50th anniversary, and it came as a total surprise," Wilken said. "I felt extremely honored to even be thought of being considered."

Rich Wilken's ties to the parade go back to when he was a toddler and watched the first Palisades Fourth of July parade in 1948. He recalls marching in his first parade as a 10-year-old Boy Scout in a display called the Flags of All Nations.

"It was really colorful with the flags blowing in the wind," he said.

When he was 14, Rich and fellow members of his Junior League baseball team had gathered along Via de la Paz to ride in a station wagon driven by their coach.

The team's sponsor was Colvey's (the menswear store that has since been replaced by Elyse Walker), and owner Ray Colvey dropped off the station wagon where the boys were waiting. Unfortunately, the team's coach had yet to arrive, so Colvey handed the keys to Wilken. The teen unlocked the

vehicle and climbed in with the other boys, who were in their baseball uniforms. They flipped on the radio while they waited for their coach.

Parade volunteers were unaware that the station wagon was packed with under-driving-age boys, and told them to move the vehicle forward.

"I'm sitting in the driver's seat, so I moved the car a few yards," Wilken said. "We're laughing a little bit and thinking that Coach will show up any minute. Next thing you know the volunteers are saying 'Go, go,' and we're in the parade. Here I am, 14 years old and waving at my friends along the parade route. Luckily, I didn't kill anybody."

Rich's mother, Myrtle, happened to be a few cars back riding with the Soroptimists women's club. She had no idea her son was taking his first drive through town.

Wilken, 77, who has been parade president at least twice, joined PAPA in 1982 and his first parade committee assignment was to "support Bud Petrick, who organized the fireworks show held at Pali High School—that was more than 42 years ago, and still counting," Wilken said.

This year, he once again is the fireworks chairman and a vice president, working with the City for fireworks and parade permits, organizing street closures, barricades delivery and working with fire and police.

(Continued on Page 13)

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Rides as 2024 Parade Marshal

(Continued from Page 12)

Wilken has also been a parade announcer from the corner of Sunset and Swarthmore for at least 20 years.

Prior to joining PAPA, Wilken helped organize street closures for the Will Rogers 5/10K run. In 1977, for the first 10K race, he designed a huge tennis shoe titled "Whistle While You Run" to support the effort.

In 2009 Wilken saved the fireworks show. Palisades High had just laid a new artificial turf field at the Stadium, and the school didn't want the fireworks shot over the new plastic field. The seating venue was changed to the baseball field and Wilken secured a Fire Department permit for the revised location.

Less than a week before July 4, the city's new fire inspector, who had never worked previous Palisades events, canceled the permit.

The inspector said as an option the Parade committee could shoot the fireworks off a chartered barge, which was way too expensive, or perhaps the Field of Dreams at the Recreation Center might work (except there was no safe distance between where shells would be shot and a place for spectators, not to mention the tinder-dry canyon brush surrounding the field).

Wilken spent endless hours with city fire officials and even working with the state fire marshal and came up with the idea of shooting fireworks from the PaliHi quad that is surrounded by brick and concrete structures (the site where fireworks are still shot). Requirements included putting plywood on the second-story windows facing the quad, supplying water hoses long enough to reach the roofs, and providing ladders to portions of the surrounding roofs.

The night of the fireworks show, volunteer fire crew members were stationed on four of the roofs to monitor any smoldering shell fall-out, as was a fire captain in charge of public safety for the area.

An LAFD fire captain, a relative of the fireworks supplier working off the clock for the fireworks company, ran the fireworks crew. Shortly after the fireworks display was



Rich Wilken has been associated with the parade more than 40 years.

Photo: Rich Schmitt Photography

completed, the unhappy fire inspector told Rich the show went off safely, but that he would never approve another show in this location.

The next day Wilken contacted the mayor's office, and in the following 15 years, he has never had an issue obtaining a LAFD permit for shooting the fireworks from the PaliHi quad.

"Rich spent probably 14 hours a day, seven days a week in the weeks leading up to July 4 to make sure the fireworks could happen," said Wilken's wife, Deann.

For those efforts and for his community involvement, he was named Citizen of the Year in 2010. The *Palisadian-Post* still selected that award and *Post* publisher Roberta Donohue said, "Few residents have ever been as active as Rich in so many community organizations, and few people can match his

willingness to take on leadership roles."

Wilken has been an assistant Scoutmaster with Troop 223 for 33 years, a member of the Optimist Club (since joining in 1979, he's been president three times) and an elder in the Lutheran Church (he's been president four times). He chaired PaliHi's 50th reunion, was president of the Palisades Civic League, a charter member of the Palisades Specific Plan Design Review Board, an honorary fire chief and town sheriff and a member of the Sons of the American Legion.

Growing up in the Palisades with brothers George and John, Wilken attended Palisades Elementary, Paul Revere and was in the first graduating class from Palisades High in June 1964.

His father, John, a former pastry chef for William Randolph Hearst, owned John's Pastry Shop on Swarthmore and his mother ran the Patio Coffee Shop.

John Wilken passed away in 1963 and money was tight. In the summer of 1966, Wilken began earning money by coloring and eventually designing surfboards under his own label, Wilken Surfboards, which became famous.

Decades later, his son Matt's teacher at PaliHi learned that Matt's father had created Wilken Surfboards.

The teacher told Matt that his favorite surfboard was a Wilken. Matt came home and said, "Hey dad, did you know you used to be somebody?"

In 2017, Wilken was inducted into the International Surfboard Builders Hall of Fame.

His path as an architect took a circuitous route. At times high school and college presented a problem for Wilken. He had dyslexia, which was not diagnosed until he was in his early 40s.

He attended Santa Monica College but

dropped out after two years to work on his surfboard business.

Wilken persevered, though, and earned equivalent college credits towards his California state architect's license by working with various engineers and being a partner in a local architectural practice. He has participated in more than 700 projects since beginning his practice in November 1970.

His list of buildings is long and includes: Mort's Deli, the Palisades Lutheran Church sanctuary, the Emerald Bay Scout Camp dining facility, one of Barbra Streisand's homes, an art studio for Bob Dylan and a remodel of St. Matthew's parish.

On the Fourth of July, one of Wilken's favorite moments is just before the fireworks display begins. He leads a salute to the veterans, firefighters and first responders, whom he asks to stand while the rest of the audience remains seated. "God Bless the U.S.A." is then played as a tribute.

Wilken said his buddies were drafted during the Vietnam War. He couldn't serve in the military because one of his legs was shorter than the other. However, many of his Palisades High friends did serve, and he appreciates the chance to recognize their service every year.

With Deann, who is the long-time director of the Marquez after-school Star program, they have two adult children, Heather and Matt, and three grandchildren, Kendall, Jack and Ryan.

Village Green activist Marge Gold, another long-time community volunteer, summed it up: "Rich is always ready to help where he is needed and when asked. He is invested in maintaining the town's character, is a longtime Palisades booster and epitomizes community involvement. They don't get any better than Rich Wilken."



Rich and Deann Wilken have been married 50 years.

Photo: Rich Schmitt Photography

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Push It!

Strollers and walkers are welcomed to enter the race.

Photo: Rich Schmitt Photography

Ruhman to Sing Anthem at Race

Mia Ruhman, a student at UCLA studying music composition, will sing the National Anthem at the 5-10K Will Rogers Race on July 4. Anyone who has ever listened to Ruhman sing, knows she has the voice of an angel.

As a 14-year-old, the Palisades native sang the National Anthem to start the parade, and now seven years later, nearly 3,000 people will be able to hear this classically trained singer before the start of the race.

Ruhman, 21, credits her interest and support for music to this community. Her family moved here in 1964, and as a youngster, she performed in 25 theatrical productions, 10 of which were with Theatre Palisades Youth.

She attended Palisades High School, where her focus was the PaliHi drama department and performing on stage, and with the choir. She also sings every Sunday in the United Methodist Church choir (which is where this editor heard her sing "O Holy Night").

Ruhman is an amazing vocal talent. She is also a composer and her compositions have been performed by the National Children's Chorus and the Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles. Her pieces have been conducted by incredible musicians such as Maestro Grant Gershon and Maestro Gustavo Dudamel of the L.A. Philharmonic.

Ruhman said, "I'm honored and grateful



Mia Ruhman

to sing the National Anthem for the community that nurtured my hopes and dreams."

Many Palisades residents may remember Ruhman's grandfather, the late Lionel Ruhman, who designed and built the Little Red School House float. He was a Mason, Rotarian and member of American Legion Post 283. Her mom Adriana said in a 2014 interview, "Mia's earliest memory of the parade is riding in the Masons' parade float, usually driven by her grandfather."

Mia Ruhman is truly a hometown girl, and a phenomenal talent. "I love the Palisades deeply and hope that you all have a lovely summer!" she said.

SHUTTLE AVAILABLE

Parking near the race site can be problematic. For those running the race, park on Temescal Canyon Road, there is a shuttle bus that starts at 6 a.m. and will run every 10 minutes or so until 11 a.m.

2024 SPONSORS

This year's race sponsors include Saint John's Health Center, the Cynthia L. & William E. Simon Jr. Foundation, Kennedy-Wilson, Laura Brau Estates (Kids Fun Run), Lexus Santa Monica, Farmers Insurance, The Ariola Group, Ronald Reagan American Legion Post 283, the Jordan Kaplan Family and Groza Learning Center.

RACE PACKETS

Race Packets can be picked up on Wednesday, July 3, near the bocce courts at the front lawn of the Palisades Recreation Center, 851 Alma Real from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Pick it up a day early, so you don't have to do it the day of the race. T-shirts will be distributed after the race.

LEMEN HIGH SCHOOL RUN

The winner of the 2023 Dick Lemen Perpetual Trophy was Oak Park High School. Palisades High School was second.

The top three Oak Park runners were Mark Hodges (18:31), Enzo Crivello (19:12) and Luke Hodges (19:18). The top three Palisades runners were Axel Mammen (17:61), Louisa Mammen (21:19) and Bailey Gair (24.32)

This race, which started in 2019, pits high school students against each other and coincides with the 5K race. Student runners from local high schools run under their school's name and compete for the team trophy. The fastest three individual times are added to determine the winner.

The first year of the competition Palisades High edged out Loyola by just 53 total seconds. In 2022, Loyola claimed the trophy.

The late Lemen was a longtime Palisadian and a track coach at Palisades High for many years. He was also a member of the Ridge Runners, the band of about 20 local runners who originated the Will Rogers Run in 1978.

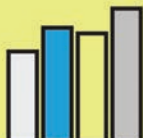
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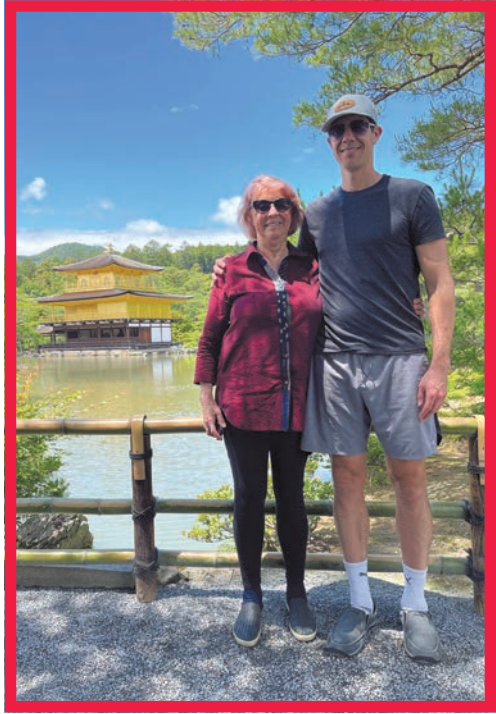
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*Past PAPA President, Past Parade Marshal,
60 Year Palisades Resident and Many Years Supporter.*

Cheryl Kanan and Family

PAPA APPRECIATES THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT

PAPA People Make the Day Possible

People from all walks of life, from doctors to artists to writers, volunteers make the daylong Fourth of July celebration in Pacific Palisades successful and are known as PAPA People.

PAPA (Palisades Americanism Parade Association) is the nonprofit that hosts the parade and fireworks.

Called the “personnel division” in an early parade program, it was founded by the late Wally Miller in 1983. Miller had been selected as a Citizen of the Year in 1979. He even developed a pledge for the People: “I promise to devote the 4th of July to whatever PAPA asks me to do. I promise to think good things, do good things and talk about good things in regard to our parade. I promise to resign from PAPA people if I cannot have fun while serving.”

Starting in the spring, PAPA meets monthly to orchestrate events on the Fourth. Each committee member has a particular assignment, ranging from permits, insurance, security and traffic control to marching bands, celebrities and fundraising.

Executive Board members include Matthew Rodman, President, Vice Presidents Kevin Niles, Rich Wilken and Keith Turner, Secretary Andy Frew, Treasurer Daphne Gronich and advisors Ramis Sadrieh and Robert Weber.



PAPA People include (left to right) Pat Boren, Rich Wilken, Nancy Brennan, Marie Manvel, Sara Margiotta, Daphne Gronich, Terry Dimich, Susan Montgomery, Violetta Hargitay, Edward LeBlanc, Joy Daunis and Abby Martin. (Back row, left to right) Matt Rodman, Sam Lagana and Kevin Niles. (Kneeling, left to right) President Matthew Rodman, Farzad Noori, Ramis Sadrieh and Jeff Ridgway. Absent from photo: Andy Frew, Marge Gold, Dr. Kimi Petrick and Jonathan VanBuskirk, Rob Weber, Kurt Bierschenk, Katherine Saslow, Rosalie Huntington, Sylvia Boyd, Linda LeBlanc, Mary Martin and Keith Turner.



Hart Construction's trucks were in the 2023 parade.

Photo: Joy Daunis

Hart Construction Aids Parade

Chuck Hart, a fourth generation Palisadian, went to Saint Matthews, before attending Loyola. He said he first went to the 4th of July parade when he was a baby and has attended the parade every year since 1977.

“My favorite part of the parade was the bagpipes and marching bands,” Hart said. Last year he became a major parade sponsor. Hart Construction also installs the plywood protection at Pali High to protect the windows from the fireworks.

He started working construction while at college. “I was passionate about the work,” he said, and added that it was then “I decided that I would do it for my career.”

For the past 24 years, he has been the

owner of Hart Built Construction. Hart is a residential licensed contractor and a commercial licensed contractor that offers construction and painting services.

“We work on all types of houses. We love doing concrete work, we love doing ground-ups,” Hart said his company works big and small projects. He now has a fleet of construction vehicles, some of which may be in the parade.

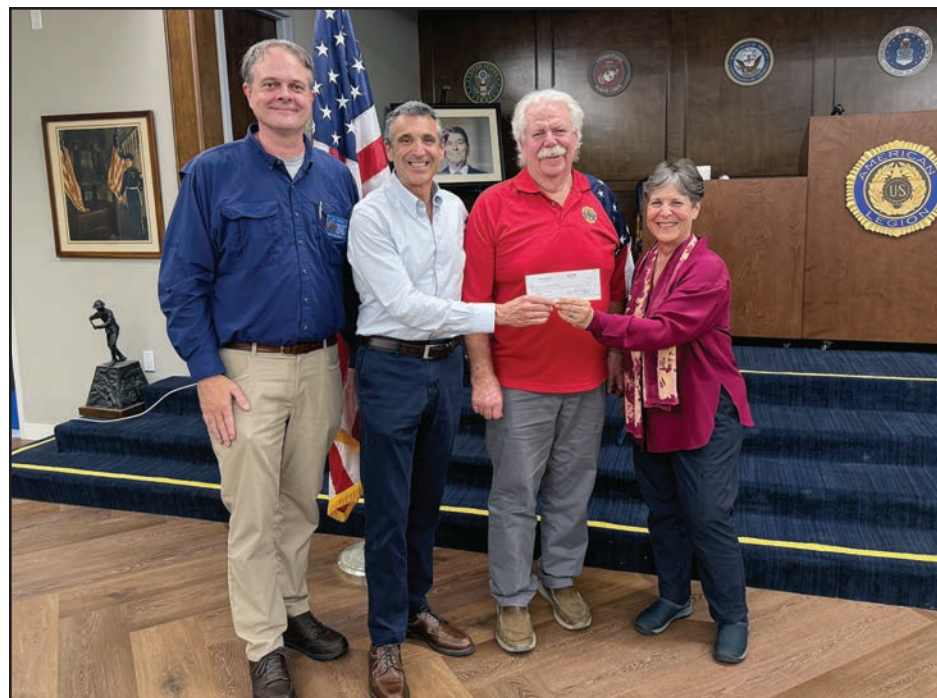
He was asked why he decided to help sponsor the parade. “We love celebrating the hard work and sacrifices our forefathers made for this great country,” Hart said. “We celebrate it every day all year long, especially on Independence Day.”

Visit: hartbuiltconstruction.com

Shout Out to Sponsors

Every year families, organizations and companies step up to make the 4th of July Parade and Fireworks possible.

Palisades Americanism Parade Association thanks the Ronald Reagan American Legion Post 283 (\$40,000), Christine and Jordan Kaplan (\$10,000), Donald & Nancy de Brier, Fran Flanagan and Liz Jones (Flanagan Jones Group) and Hart Built Construction (\$5,000).



At a ceremony at the American Legion, Commander Jim Cragg (left) and former adjutant Kevin Niles (red shirt) presented a check to PAPA President Matthew Rodman and treasurer Daphne Gronich to help fund the day's festivities.



General Gilland (third from left) with members of the Black Knights Skydivers at West Point, including coach Tom Falzone (third from right). General Gilland was the first West Point Superintendent to jump out of a plane and freefall onto the campus. Photos: Sydnie Rissell

General Gilland Rides in Palisades Parade

By LAUREL BUSBY
Contributing Writer

Lieutenant General Steven Gilland didn't grow up dreaming of a military career.

In fact, he applied to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point mainly because it offered a free avenue to a college degree. In 1986, when he left his hometown of Rock Island in western Illinois, he knew little about the Army and its premier school for training military leaders.

"I knew I wanted to do something different," said Gilland, who met his future wife, Betsy, a fellow West Point graduate, during those years. After graduation in 1990, the couple began their required Army service, and "as the years went by, the Army was our family's way of life."

The couple eventually had three children, including a son who is also a West Point graduate, and a daughter who attended Pepperdine, which brought the couple to California on occasion. West Point has remained an integral part of their lives. Gilland first became the commandant of the Corps of Cadets in 2017, and then in 2022, he became West Point's 61st superintendent.

As the Fourth of July parade reviewing officer, Lt. Gen. Steven Gilland will be the most highly ranked general in Pacific Palisades history, according to Lt. Col. Jim Cragg, a friend of Gilland's and the commander of Pacific Palisades American Legion Post 283.

"He is dedicated to developing our next generation of leaders while also being one of our military's greatest leaders," Cragg said. "It is a tremendous honor to get a general like him to come out here."

Over Gilland's 34 years in the Army, he has been deployed to the Middle East, Af-

ghanistan, and Africa, and, until 2021 he was the commanding general of the 2nd Republic of Korea-U.S. Combined Division, overseeing an arm of the military charged with addressing one of the most sensitive political areas in the world.

Often, on these assignments, his children were able to move with him, allowing the three to "develop different perspectives through unbelievable opportunities," Gilland said in an email.

Tom Falzone, who works under Gilland at West Point as the coach of the academy's skydiving team and also starts off the parade most years by skydiving onto Sunset Blvd., said that he is a fan of Gilland's leadership at West Point.

He is "very serious, very tough, but well respected," and he's also a skydiver, which means that Falzone has had the chance to parachute with him on two occasions—first, on three jumps during Gilland's tenure as a commandant six years ago, and again, a few weeks ago, when Gilland became the first superintendent (or Supe as he's known on campus) to jump out of an airplane and freefall onto campus.

"It was historic," said Falzone, who joined Gilland in a three-person formation over West Point.

Gilland is also approaching the Palisades parade with heightened energy, by not only riding in the parade, but also running in the morning road race and speaking at a post-parade American Legion barbecue.

A group of veterans, local active-duty personnel, and four West Point cadets will also race down the street with him in an event called "Run With the Supe." The legion is expecting at least 50 military runners to participate.

After the parade, at the 3:30-7:30 p.m.

free American Legion barbecue, Gilland will join Medal of Honor recipient Gary Littrell and Lt. Col. Johann Hindert, a Green Beret, in enjoying the food and taking pictures with attendees. The trio will also talk about their varied military experiences. (The speakers start at 4 p.m. at the Legion (15247 La Cruz). All are welcome.

Gilland has a wealth of experiences to share with the audience. Over his career, he has served as an infantry officer with the Army Rangers, mechanized infantry, air assault, and Special Operations units. He has also earned numerous medals, including the Bronze Star, which is given for meritorious/heroic actions, and the Distinguished Service Medal, which is for exceptional service to the government.

Over the course of these experiences, he has not only gained insight into military actions around the world, but he has also developed an appreciation of the military that he would like to share with others, especially civilians.

"I would like the citizens of our nation to understand that the military is a necessity for our country's security, and everyone should try to be a contributor in some way," Gilland said. "There is no other institution in our nation that allows people to be on a great team, serve others before themselves, develop their personal character traits that are applicable in life, regardless of the profession, learn a host of new job skills, mature, gain confidence, develop leadership skills and attributes, and the list goes on and on."



General Steven Gilland visits the Ronald Reagan American Legion Post 283 and chats with Commander Jim Cragg and Cragg's daughter.

THANK YOU

The Palisades Americanism Parade Association (PAPA) thanks the supporters and community members who help our nonprofit put on Pacific Palisades' July 4th Parade, Music and Fireworks events.

PAPA is delighted to be able to celebrate our community's **Happy Days in the Palisades!**

Our appreciation to all those who have offered support and who will volunteer their time on our July 4th community celebrations, as well as the staff of Palisades Charter High School, Namevents and Pyro Spectaculars.

This Official July 4th Program, which is mailed to over 12,000 local residential and business addresses, is the *only* local publication that supports and directly helps fund our community's July 4th events. PAPA thanks all those who worked on it and the businesses, entities and individuals who placed ads in the Program.

Together with the Official July 4th Program advertisers, the following people and entities are funding and supporting the **Happy Days in the Palisades** celebrations. We will update this list (on our website) to add donations received *after* June 20.

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• Taj Palace • Viktor Benès Bakery (at Gelson's).

PAPA would like to recognize the community groups from whom it has received grants

(Optimist Club of Pacific Palisades and Pacific Palisades Woman's Club) and those who assist us on July 4th, including the Pali High Football team, Pali Ambassadors, Troop 223 Scouts and others who serve as parade banner carriers. PAPA also appreciates the on-going support of Ralphs and Gelson's, as well as the personnel of the West L.A. station of LAPD and LAFD Fire Stations 23 and 69 and staff of Los Angeles Council District 11 (Traci Park, Councilwoman).

The individual **volunteers** listed below will make our 2024 celebrations possible. Those who have helped prep or committed to work on July 4th include: Melissa Anna, Zena Bartholomew, Kurt Bierschenk, Sylvia Boyd, Nancy Brennan, Joy Daunis, Terry Dimich, Jeanne Elfant Festa, Andy Frew, Marge Gold, Ellen Grady, Linda Grant, Daphne Gronich, Manfred Hofer, Rosalie Huntington, Sam Lagana, Linda & Ed LeBlanc, Sara Margiotta, Eli Nagle, Paul Nagle, Kevin Niles, Tim Overbeck, Sue Pascoe, Kimi Petrick, Joanne Reich, Matthew Rodman, Rene Rodman, Spencer Rodman, Katherine Saslow, Sammy Saslow, Lisa Saxon, Bill & Cindy Simon, Aly Uytensu, Jonathan Van BusKirk, Rob Weber, Rich Wilken. (*Our apologies to anyone we may have inadvertently omitted as of our press deadline.*)

Donations will always be gratefully accepted by PAPA at P.O. Box 1776, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272, online at palisades4th.com, or via Zelle directed to palisades4th@gmail.com.

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Photo: Rich Schmitt Photography

Swipe Right?

It appears that Uncle Sam, who has appeared in numerous Palisades 4th of July Parade, has finally met a match and Mrs. Uncle Sam will join him in the parade this year.

It was not clear whether the match was made on Tinder or through mutual acquaintances, but the real winner is Pacific Palisades.

Uncle Sam, aka Christopher Yates, is an international performance artist, comic actor and musician. Yates, who calls New Zealand his home is drama and circus school trained.

Fluent in three languages, he has performed on four continents and has worked for such diverse clients as the BBC, The Lord Mayor of Sydney, Australia, and the President of Venezuela.

He also does library shows, such as "Lord Rusty's Renaissance Arts," Rusty Blade's High Seas Pirate Adventures and "Dr. Rusty's Dinosaur Safari."

We welcome the Mr. and Mrs. to the Palisades Parade!

"The more you observe politics, the more you've got to admit that each party is worse than the other."

— Will Rogers

WAY BACK IN 1824 . . .

'Corrupt Bargain' Decides U.S. Presidential Contest

This title might have many people thinking about the 2024 presidential election, but this "corrupt bargain" goes back to 1824, when there were four people running for president of the United States: John Quincy Adams, Andrew Jackson, Henry Clay and William Crawford.

The election was held from October 26, through December 2. None of the four candidates received an electoral vote majority. Jackson had 99 electoral votes, compared to Adams (84), Crawford (41) and Clay (37). Jackson also led with the popular vote, 151,309 to Adams 122,440. Clay had 48,606 and Crawford 41,222.

Since there was not an electoral majority, the outcome went to the House of Representatives. This was one of two Presidential elections (the other in 1800) that were decided in the house.

Henry Clay, who was the speaker of the house, gave his vote to Adams—and it was speculated that he convinced the house to vote for Adams. Jackson referred to Clay as the "Judas of the West."

It is also one of five elections in which the winner received the most votes, but did not receive more than half of the votes cast. It was the only election in which the candidate received the most electoral votes from the Electoral College, but did not win the election.

After the House declared Adams President, he named Clay his Secretary of State. That presidential race became known as "The Corrupt Bargain."

As soon as Adams became president, Jackson, who planned to run again for presidency in 1828 started a campaign against him.

Jackson, who appealed to the common man and whose base was in the South and among rural voters, was known as "Old Hickory."

According to The Historic New Orleans Collection, "The second contest for the 1828 presidency between John Quincy Adams and Andrew Jackson was one of the nastiest, most vituperative political races in American history."

Jackson campaigned on his personal qualities and his opposition to Adams, rather than articulating a platform. Adams avoided popular campaigning and emphasized his support of specific issues. But others spoke out against

Jackson for him. Thomas Jefferson supposedly said in December 1824 that Jackson was a dangerous man unfit for the presidency.

Jackson was seen as a people of the man and Adams was viewed as an elitist.

Jackson had taken part in several duels, killing a man in a notorious one in 1806. When commanding troops in 1815, he had ordered the execution of six militia members accused of desertion. The six dead men were eulogized in 1828 in a series of so-called coffin broadsides from pro-Adams publishers who accused Jackson of being a murderer.

His wife also came under scrutiny because when Jackson met his Rachel, she mistakenly believed her first husband, whom she had married as a teenager, had divorced her. When she married Jackson in 1791, she was still legally married. Although they had remarried in 1794 and had been married 40 years, Jackson was accused of adultery and vilified for running off with another man's wife. And his wife was accused of bigamy.

Adams was the son of founding father and second president John Adams. He began his career in public service by working as the secretary to the American envoy to Russia when he was still a teenager. He had an illustrious career as a diplomat, but supporters of Jackson began spreading a rumor that Adams, while serving as American ambassador to Russia, had procured an American girl for the sexual services of the Russian czar.

Jackson supporters called Adams a "pimp" and claimed that procuring women was why he was successful as a diplomat.

He was also attacked for having a billiards table in the White House and allegedly charging the government for it. He had paid for the table with his own funds.

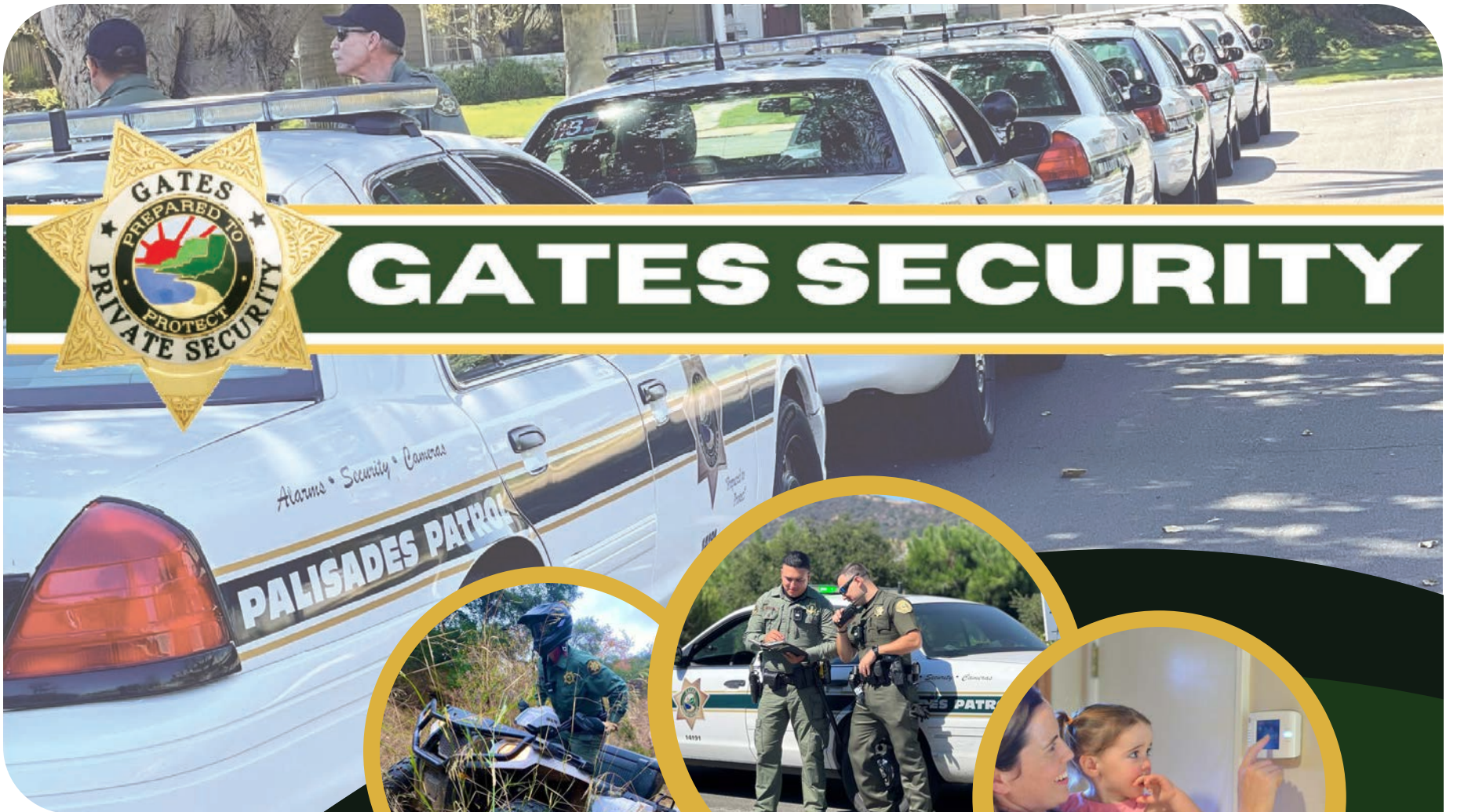
By appealing to the "common folk" Jackson won the popular vote and the electoral vote. His wife Rachel suffered a heart attack and died before the inauguration, and Jackson always blamed his political enemies for her death.

When Jackson arrived in Washington for his inauguration, he refused to pay the customary courtesy call on the outgoing president. And John Quincy Adams reciprocated by refusing to attend the inauguration of Jackson.

PAPA Thanks Ralphs

Ralphs has supported the 4th of July Parade for years by making their parking lot available to equestrian trailers and groups. Once again, the market will be open on the 4th of July, but the parking lot will only be available to horses. PAPA (Palisades Americanism Parade Association) thanks Ralphs for working with it over the years and for giving up their parking lot during the entire day. Current manager, Karlyn Takahara, has been there for about three years and has been very gracious and supportive of PAPA.





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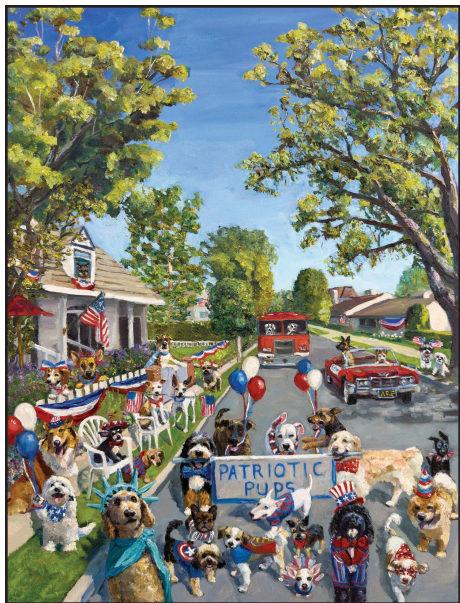
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On the Cover

Artist Katie O'Neill, who grew up in Pacific Palisades, captures not only the beauty of this area, but also chronicles important town events through her artwork. She has designed the cover for the Palisades Americanism Parade Association program for the last six years.

After teaching in Malibu for 15 years, O'Neill returned to the Palisades in 2011. She has a studio at 15330 Antioch Street, where she offers lessons to children, teens and adults, who have never had an art class and those who want to refine their technique. Visit: oneillsfineart.com or call (310) 459-1039 or email katie@oneillsfineart.com.

World Series Champs Ride

More than 500 kids participated in the Pacific Palisades Baseball Association in five leagues: Shetland (6- and 7-year-olds), Pinto (7-8 and some 9-year-olds), Mustang (9- and 10-year-old), Bronco (11-12 year olds) and Pony (13-14 year olds).

The season opened on March 9 with the annual pancake breakfast and closed with the World Series in May.

Winning the Shetland World Series was the Cardinals, coached by Kevin Boyle, who beat Josh Weisman's Dodgers, in the finals.

In the Pinto division, the Red Sox, coached by Brad Hill, held off a tough challenge from the Cubs, who were coached by Nick Jannek, but ultimately prevailed.

The Mustang Cardinals needed two games against the Orioles to secure the championship. The Cardinals were coached by Matt Underwood and the Orioles by Mike Badt.

After winning three games, the Bronco Cubs, coached by Chris Feil, lost to the Yankees, which bumped them to the lower bracket. The Cubs fought their way back to face the Yankees, coached by Barry HoAire in the Championship game on May 28.

In the Pony division, Pali Blue, coached by Eric Foster, beat Pali Black, coached by Blake Schinto and Tripp Nassour, in an all-Pali Pony Championship game.



Yanks Celebrate after winning World Series.

Photo: Rich Schmitt Photography



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Oom PaPa's Musical Tradition Provides Parade Fun

By LAUREL BUSBY
Contributing Writer

Eighteen-year-old Michael Eisenberg joined the Oom PaPa band when he was a baby.

His mother pushed his stroller while his drum major father led the musicians as they marched down Pacific Palisades streets on the Fourth of July in their all-white outfits.

The following year, Michael carried a little flag. The next, he chimed a triangle. At four years old, he strapped on a small drum and banged along with the adult drummers, then after a few more years, he played the cowbell, an honor that he eventually passed to his younger sister, Emma, now 16, when he took on the lead trumpet part.

This year, Michael is graduating from El Segundo High School and enrolling at UC Santa Cruz, but the Fourth of July Parade continues to be a highlight of his year. A

summer trip to Italy couldn't even deter him from playing in the band. He insisted that his trip end in time for him to join his family in the parade.

"I don't know the parade as a personal thing; It's always been a family thing... a family event," Eisenberg said. "Every family member was a part of it, and it makes it 1,000 times better to know we are doing this together."

The band tends to attract families as many parents have joined their children as players during its 50-year tenure. Gene Romig and Sandy Schaefer started the band in 1975 and named it Oom PaPa not only for its peppy tunes, which invariably include "Louie, Louie," "76 Trombones," and "California Here I Come," but also for PAPA, the Palisades Americanism Parade Association, which coordinates the parade each year.

In 1980, Michael's father, Mark, learned about the band from his high school friend, Palisadian Nancy Morrison. Mark first

played trumpet before taking on the role of drum major and music director in 1986. Then in 2019, when longtime managers Margot Morrison and Phyllis Schlessinger retired, his wife, Marla, took over managing the group.

Watching their son mature both in the band and in life has been a pleasure for his parents. For Mark, who was raised by a single mother after his father left home when he was one, the beauty of guiding his son both as his band director and as his father has been a particular joy.

"Very early in life, I knew I wanted to be a father," he said. "I had something to give that I never got."

The El Segundo lawyer opened his own law practice, so that he could have the flexibility to be as present as possible in his children's lives. He coached soccer and Little League and shared his love of music with them.

"It's my dream that I'm living," he said. "I have been very fortunate to have two children and love them unconditionally. For me, it's like I'm coming full circle."

And for Michael, new adventures await as he steps away from home for the first time to attend college. He is interested in studying business and economics with a goal of potentially enrolling in law school, and he looks forward to living on the forested UC Santa Cruz campus less than a mile from the beach.

In high school, he enjoyed taking on leadership roles, including both class president



Michael, 18, will go to UC Santa Cruz this fall.

and class secretary, and he is interested in real estate. But he doesn't have a set goal for his future.

For now, he is looking forward to his next steps, including his annual march in the parade, particularly playing the fan favorite, "Louie, Louie."

"Everybody seems to know it; it's a real attention grabber," he said. "The cowbell is the thing that everybody hears, and it gets the whole crowd going."

He also delights in the ritual of re-connecting with other band members at rehearsals

(Continued on Page 27)



Michael and Emma Eisenberg were part of the Oom PaPa Band from the time they were little.

Happy Fourth of July!

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PALISADES NEWS

2 STRAIGHT YEARS



Mark and Marla Eisenberg with their children Michael and Emma. Marla manages the Oom PaPa Band.

Oom PaPa:

(Continued from Page 26)

als, inviting friends from high school to join him each summer, and marching down the street in front of the cheering paradegoers.

"I always have a big smile on my face," he said. "I'm waving at people in the crowd. It's one of the best feelings to see people happy

with what we're doing . . . It's a summer tradition that I don't plan on letting go."

The Oom PaPa band welcomes new members of all ages each year. Please join rehearsals from 10:30 a.m. to noon each Saturday morning, beginning June 1, with one evening practice on July 3. Email Marla Eisenberg at meisenberg310@gmail.com with any questions.



The Palisades Charter High Band marches in the 2023 parade. Photo: Rich Schmitt Photography

Palisades Charter High Band Gears Up for 4th

With the annual Palisades 4th of July Parade approaching, Palisades Charter High School's marching band, color guard, and drumline are preparing for this year's parade. The high school is also collaborating with Paul Revere Middle School musicians.

Under the direction of Peter Ye, PaliHi band director, he urges alumni and others with a connection to the band to contact him via email. Participants will have to attend a two-day training camp to perform. Those interested in performing and marching should email Ye (pye@palihigh.org)

mental Army musicians were used in the coordination of American Forces.

Visit: fifesanddrums.org/about

SCOTTISH BAGPIPES

Formed in 2006, the Pasadena Scottish Pipes & Drums are the 2018 Grade 3B World Champions and the current Grade 3 & Grade 5 Western United States Pipe Band Association Champions.

Known as the Pasadena Scots, the band is dedicated to the study and performance of Scottish bagpipe and drum music.

The musicians are a diverse group, and several members are actual rocket scientists employed at Pasadena's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Those scientists/musicians were asked to play as part of the official U.S. Postal release ceremony for the stamp of the 50th Anniversary of the Moon Landing.

Members, who wear the California State tartan, competed in the World Band Championship in 2009 in Grade 4B, placing sixth. But by 2018, in their third trip to Glasgow, Scotland, they had been crowned Grade 3B Champions.

NEW ORLEANS JAZZ BAND

The New Orleans "Traditional" Jazz Band has been featured at Disneyland and in ads for the iPhone, Fox NFL and DirectTV. The band is available for occasions such as weddings, funerals, parties—and, of course, parades.

MOUNTAIN FIFES & DRUMS

The Mountain Fifes & Drums is a youth music program founded in 2001. It is a living history community service program for boys and girls ages 10-18.

There are about 50 kids currently in the program, and new recruits are selected from a waiting list each August. No musical skills are required to join, but once accepted into the program kids, they are expected to remain until high school graduation.

Rehearsals are held weekly, and kids are taught 18th century military music and history through practice and performances on wooden fifes and rope-tensioned drums. During the American Revolutionary War, fifes and drums were the instruments for military communications. Enlisted Conti-

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'Happy Days' For Parade Theme Winner

By LAURA ABRUSCATO

A family project to come up with themes for the Palisades Fourth of July Parade has paid off for longtime Palisadians Dean Grinsfelder and Vicky Collison. Dean's winning theme for the 2024 parade is "Happy Days in the Palisades."

The parade theme encapsulates Dean and his families' experience in the Palisades over the years.

"We could not be happier to be here," says Dean, who has lived in the Highlands since 1989. "The rolling hills, the family community and non-ostentatious vibe. It's similar to where I grew up."

The Marin County native first came up to the Highlands with a friend, and after seeing the natural beauty, he thought it would be a great place to live. "I didn't know this existed in L.A."

He and Vicky married in 1992 and bought a home in the Highlands where they raised their family.

The couple have three sons, all of whom attended Calvary Christian School from preschool to middle school. David, 26, graduated from PaliHi and UC Berkeley and is a model as well as a project manager at Market Development Group in New York. He's also a regular contributor to the *Palisadian-Post*. Matthew, 24, a graduate of Loyola High School and Southern Methodist University is a real estate transaction analyst at Westwood Financial in Los Angeles. Andrew, 18, is a graduate of Pacifica Christian High School who will attend UCLA this fall.

The family starts their Palisades Fourth of July with running in either the 5K or 10K. In 2010, both Vicky and son David, 12 at the time, won their age category in the 5K.

"We love that morning," says Vicky. "After the race you see so many people, it's a great place to connect with people you haven't seen." They often have friends over to swim after the race and then go watch the parade.

Their sons have ridden in Kids on Bikes, as well as held banners for the Eagle Scouts and other groups. In the 2024 parade, as the parade theme winners, the couple will have the opportunity to ride on the fire truck along the parade route.

"I love the beautiful cars and gorgeous horses," says Vicky, "and I always get a chuckle out of the Optimists." Dean appreciates the small-town feel of Kids on Bikes.

Shortly after moving to the Palisades, Dean was visiting cousins in Dallas on the Fourth of July who had a small neighborhood parade. "I thought to myself, why don't we have anything like this in Los Angeles?" He flew home later that day, and driving home from the airport to the



Parade theme winner Dean Grinsfelder, right, and wife Vicky Collison with sons, (right to left): Matthew, Andrew, and David.

Highlands he came across the Palisades Fourth of July Parade.

The family also watches the evening fireworks at Palisades High School or from the hills.

Growing up, Fourth of July was Dean's favorite holiday, as he and his friends would have canoe races and set off fireworks along the Russian River in Northern California.

An Emmy-winning composer, Dean also has had his recording studio and offices in the Highlands since 2001, and the beauty of the area helps inspire his music: "If I'm thinking about it too much, it doesn't really flow, if I get out of the way, it just happens," he says of the music he writes regularly for film, television, advertising and video

games for clients such as Warner Brothers and Disney.

Vicky works in real estate management and has been involved at Calvary Christian for many years as a school board member and deacon, and also is past president of the Palisades/Brentwood chapter of the National League of Young Men.

Dean has been an assistant scoutmaster for Troop 223, coached lacrosse and 21 seasons of AYSO soccer, and played piano in the Calvary Christian Band.

"It's the happiest day of the year," says Dean of the Fourth of July in Pacific Palisades. "You get to meet and catch up with everyone."


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Pay Homage to a Hero: Gary Littrell

Medal of Honor Recipient
Gary Littrell will ride in the Pacific
Palisades Fourth of July parade

By LAUREL BUSBY
Contributing Writer

Gary Littrell and his fellow soldiers were out of ammo.

Of their battalion—473 Vietnamese rangers and four American advisers—only 41 remained to fight, and many of those 41 were injured. Littrell expected the North Vietnamese, around 5,000 fighters when the battle began, to soon overrun their position. It would be impossible to return their fire.

“It was about two in the morning,” Littrell said. “I leaned back against a tree and . . . said to myself, ‘I’ll probably never see the sun rise again.’ A peaceful, tranquil feeling came over me. I told my God, ‘If you want me, take me. I don’t want to die, but if it’s my time, it’s my time.’”

Luckily, the next North Vietnamese attack never came. He learned later that 2,000 of their soldiers likely died during the battle. Those losses meant that Littrell’s fighters were no longer surrounded, and, in the morning, they received orders to leave the hill.

Littrell carried one injured soldier and attached another blinded one to him with a rope. A friend five miles away, Bill Micharg, stayed in radio contact both to steer them to a safer location, sometimes by firing a few shots into the air when they were disoriented, and to provide air support, including fiery napalm drops when they were ambushed. They had no food or water, but all 41 made it to Micharg.

On walking into the camp, “my friend met me with a hot cup of coffee and a cigarette,” Littrell said. “That was unbelievably good. Oh my God.”

Three years later, Pres. Richard Nixon awarded Littrell the Medal of Honor, the highest U.S. military decoration, for his valor during those four days and nights of incessant gunfire and almost no sleep. Littrell not only kept up the rangers’ morale and tended to the wounded during those



Soldiers carrying a Vietnamese man on a stretcher run toward a helicopter during an attack at special forces camp Dak Seang in Vietnam in 1970.

days, he was their literal lifeline.

In the initial artillery barrage, one of his fellow American advisers had died, and the other two were severely injured and then evacuated. Littrell was the sole American left, and without an American voice to request aid via the Army radio, the Vietnamese rangers would have been unable to keep fighting. Littrell called for food and ammo drops, air attacks on their opponents, and evacuation of the wounded, when it was safe enough to do so.

Due to sleep deprivation, Littrell’s memories of those days have always been blurry, but he remains happy that he “contributed to saving the lives of the 41.” He lost contact with his Vietnamese friends after he left Vietnam, but Micharg stayed a life-long buddy.

“The friendships that you make in combat are unbreakable,” Littrell said. Unfortunately, Micharg suffered from serious post-traumatic stress disorder after returning stateside, which made relationships difficult for him to sustain, so Littrell and his late

wife, Mitsue, took care of their friend at the end of his life when he was dying of cancer.

For Littrell, now 79, PTSD was not an issue.

“I’m one of the lucky people,” he said. “When I left Vietnam, I flipped a switch and never looked back.”

Instead, he was able to keep looking for-



Army Command Sgt. Major Gary Littrell, Medal of Honor recipient.

ward, recalling the fun times, instead of the miserable ones. It was a good thing too. Growing up in Henderson County, Kentucky, Littrell experienced a childhood that could have derailed him.

One of his earliest memories was of his father and uncle rolling down a hill in a bloody knife fight. His mother and younger brother died in a car crash when Littrell was five, and, since his father didn’t want to raise him, he bounced between relatives with no

(Continued on Page 31)



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Photo: Rich Schmitt

**Congrats to these players for their
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Littrell:

(Continued from Page 30)

one seeming to welcome the full-time task of being his parent. At 14, he dropped out of high school, a story that he tells struggling teens who he mentors via his organization Tribute to Valor, which helps develop STEAM skills using the values of the medal of honor: courage, sacrifice, patriotism, citizenship, integrity, and commitment.

Littrell also shares with young people that throughout his difficulties, he maintained a dream, which began when he was 9 years old and his uncle took him to Ft. Campell. He watched paratroopers leap out of an airplane in a demonstration jump and was enchanted.

"I thought, 'That's gotta be me,'" said Littrell, who encourages students to find and feed their own dreams.

On his 17th birthday in 1961, Littrell joined the Army, and he stipulated in his contract that he be trained as a paratrooper. After basic training and airborne school, Littrell went to ranger school, graduated second in his class, and became an instructor for five years. He then spent a year in language school to learn Vietnamese before heading to Vietnam to work as an advisor to the Vietnamese rangers.

Although there were some hard days of combat, the military was an ideal place for Littrell. He loved basic training, which wasn't any tougher than a day spent working on his grandparents' farm. He also delighted in trekking through the woods and exploring

new terrains.

After he left Vietnam in 1971, he joined the 101st Airborne, the same division that had performed the paratrooper demo when he was 9 years old. Then in 1977, he became part of a newly formed unit that is currently called the 75th Ranger Regiment.

That assignment was a particular delight. They were provided ample funds to train anywhere in the world, which meant skiing in the Alaskan wilderness, SCUBA challenges, and desert ventures. In addition, every ranger was qualified in both demolition and medical aid.

"It was the absolute best unit that I could imagine coming into," said Littrell, who was the senior enlisted soldier in charge of administration and training.

The only difficulty, which was actually a blessing, was that his soldiers never had to use their training in combat during his six years in the regiment, because there were few U.S. military engagements at the time.

"When they train as hard as they trained, they want to put that training into practice," Littrell said.

His rangers were once flown to an aircraft carrier, which had a mock village on it. They worked for three days there, but the mission, which focused on combatting Idi Amin, was canceled.

"My soldiers were so disappointed, because they thought they were going to get the opportunity to put their training to practical use."

Upon his retirement in 1983, Littrell put his military education to a new use when he



Army Sgt. 1st Class Gary Littrell shakes hands with President Richard M. Nixon during a White House ceremony in which he was awarded the Medal of Honor for actions he took in 1970 during the Vietnam War.

sent his Army transcript to St. Leo College in Florida, a school that considers military training in assessing prior college credits. Littrell, who had already earned a G.E.D, found that his Vietnamese course earned foreign language credit, while some of his instructor schooling also qualified for various requirements. He finished his remaining courses at

the school and earned a bachelor's degree in the same month as his youngest son.

"Life can be hard, but don't give up," said Littrell, a newlywed, whose wife, Suzanne, will join him in the parade. He tells students, "Look forward. Have a shining star like I had with the military . . . Be positive, and let that positivity radiate to everything you do."



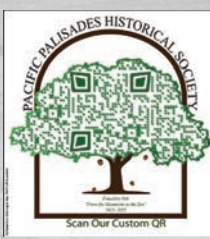
Retired Army Col. Robert L. Howard, left, and Army Command Sgt. Maj. Gary L. Littrell sign copies of their Medal of Honor citations for service members during a trip to a combat zone on April 11, 2009. As members of the Medal of Honor Society, they provide support and encouragement to service members by talking about their experiences and showing their gratitude for the sacrifices of today's military members.

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~ 2024 ~

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Come Celebrate! PAPA President's Message

By MATTHEW RODMAN
PAPA President

I'm incredibly excited to share with you this year's Palisades 4th theme, "Happy Days in the Palisades." Our 2024 theme expresses not only the excitement of the day, but the feeling so many of us share about living in Pacific Palisades. The Palisades Americanism Parade Association (PAPA) will celebrate "Happy Days" with you by hosting the 76th annual Pacific Palisades 4th of July Parade, followed by the evening's Independence Day Music and Fireworks celebration at Palisades Charter High School.

It's our hope that you'll grab your loved ones' hands, put out some chairs on Wednesday night, or grab a piece of curb on Thursday afternoon to watch our town's amazing 4th of July Parade. Then, join us in the evening at Pali High for great food trucks, music, and some of the most amazing fireworks anywhere.

Whether you're young or old, a longtime resident of the Palisades or a new arrival, this is a day that creates lasting memories you'll share for generations.

While I've served as the President of the Parade Association for years, none of this happens without my "parade partner" and PAPA Treasurer Daphne Gronich working tirelessly with me to make the Fourth of July celebration a reality.

Executive Board members Kevin Niles, Rich Wilken, Andy Frew, Keith Turner and advisors Rob Weber and Ramis Sadrieh round out the all-volunteer Board that brings you this great day.

We're all incredibly grateful to our fellow volunteers who come out to help each 4th of July. They're the real stars, and our celebrations only happen each year because of the incredibly hard work and countless hours of these

volunteers, who show up in advance of the Fourth and pull it all together.

This is a true community day, which many say is the best day in the Palisades, and you can be involved. If you'd like to help and be part of the fun, please join us by volunteering, and maybe even taking on a greater role in future years. Just email PalisadesParade@gmail.com to volunteer or sign up for our mailing list!

There's only one Official 4th of July Program in Pacific Palisades and it features great stories, memories and information produced by our all-star team of true professionals, led by star editor Sue Pascoe. The team is rounded out by Bill Bruns, Manfred Hofer, Tom Hofer, Laurel Busby, Alison Burmeister, Laura Abruscato and Jeff Ridgway.

The cover artwork is created by resident artist, Katie O'Neill.

The revenue from the local businesses and neighbors that advertise in our non-profit's Official 4th of July Program helps pay for all the celebrations, so please support our advertisers. No other publication in the Palisades provides financial support to the Parade.

It is incredibly important that I acknowledge the American Legion—Ronald Reagan Palisades Post 283's continued and most generous annual support of the Parade, dating back to the first Parade in 1948.

We simply could not manage without our longstanding sponsors and individual donors who help us pay the substantial cost of the events. If you would like to financially support the 4th of July events, please visit www.Palisades4th.com for details, or donate directly via Zelle or PayPal to PalisadesParade@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing you at the Palisades-Will Rogers 5K/10K Run in the morning, our 76th annual Parade in the afternoon, then food trucks, Music and



PAPA President Matthew Rodman and wife, Rene, check out last minute details before the start of the parade.

Photo: Rich Schmitt Photography

Fireworks in the evening at Palisades High.

Information about all the day's events can be found in this Official Program and at www.Palisades4th.com.

Happy 4th of July!
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Celebrating 72 Years in Pacific Palisades!

Mary Katharine Goddard, Patriot Printer

By JEFF RIDGWAY

At the bottom of the Declaration of America it reads: "Baltimore, in Maryland: Printed by Mary Katharine Goddard."

Goddard's is the only woman's name that appears on the Declaration of Independence.

Born in 1738 in colonial Connecticut, Goddard grew up as an inquisitive youth and helped her flighty brother, William, a printer, out with various projects and publishing efforts.

She understood the importance of her role too, as colonial America printers were the primary source of information for what was occurring nearby and around the colonies.

William went to Philadelphia to set up the *Pennsylvania Chronicle*, and then to Baltimore, Maryland, where he had begun the *Maryland Journal*. Goddard followed.

In April 1775, the beginning of the Revolutionary War started with the famous fights at Lexington and Concord. The *Maryland Journal* was one of the first papers to report this news to the readership of Baltimore and the surrounding regions.

Things were not going well for her brother, and just shy of her 37th birthday, Goddard took over the publishing duties, changing the newspaper's ownership. She became known as one of the most prominent publishers during the nation's revolutionary era.

After the Continental Congress approved a plan for a continental postal system to replace the one operated by the British, Goddard was named the first postmaster of Baltimore, and was the first woman postmaster in the thirteen colonies.

On July 4, 1776, a hand-written version of a Declaration of Independence (a message to the world), was approved by the Continental Congress. But to be safe, no names of delegates were printed upon the sheets; an understandable act of discretion, as they could be arrested and hanged.

The war continued, and the Congress fled its home in Philadelphia for Baltimore, setting up just a few blocks from Goddard's printing shop.

Then, the Continental Congress decided to print a new version of the Declaration, that included the names of the signers. And Goddard was tasked with printing the official document.

She carefully designed the layout and set it on the press.

Under the signed names, from John Hancock and his outsized larger signature (supposedly so King George 'could read it from across the room') to the smaller fifty-plus signatures shown organized under each of the thirteen colonies, is Goddard's name.

As was custom with printers at the time, she added her name at the bottom. She knew she was taking a risk, placing her life at risk . . . but she was a patriot.

Enter the Patriotic Home Contest

By ALISON BURMEISTER

It's that time again for the most festive and highly anticipated day of pomp and circumstance in Pacific Palisades, the Fourth of July!

Not just for locals, visitors from all over Los Angeles fill the chair-lined sidewalks of Sunset Boulevard to celebrate our Nation's independence.

A lot of preparation and planning takes place to ensure the day's success. Unbeknownst to out-of-town guests, the day's excitement starts long before the parade's noisemakers and picture-takers arrive.

Since 2008, the Home Decorating Contest has been a fan favorite kickstart to the Fourth of July festivities.

Sponsoring this year's July 4th home decorating contest are local realtors, Susan Montgomery and Violetta Hargitay of Sotheby's International Realty office on Sunset. Susan and Violetta are continuing the Home Decorating Contest tradition in honor of their former colleague, Joan Sather. They encourage Palisadian residents to show their patriotic spirit, by decorating their homes, windows, and balconies.

Everyone is welcome to enter. It is not about how big the display is but the spirit you put into it!

Eligible Properties and Awards:

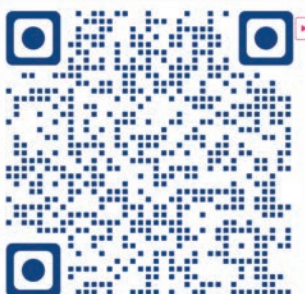
All homes in Pacific Palisades are eligible. Awards will be given to the "Most Patriotic Home," "Runner-Up Most Patriotic Home" and the "Joan Sather Memorial Sponsor's Award," given to the home that employs the most outstanding use of homemade decorative elements.

Judging:

Judging will be conducted, and winners notified around 4 p.m. on July 3. Winning houses will be displayed on the 4th of July website, as well as on Facebook and Instagram. Judging is based upon originality of design and spectator appeal. Judges' decisions are final.

HOW TO ENTER

Upload a photo of your house and post it on our Facebook page or to your Instagram feed (with #Palisades4thHomeContest in the description) by 5 p.m. on July 2nd (or use the QR code below). No registration or fee is required. If you have questions or need help, email homecontest@palisades4th.com or contact Susan Montgomery at susan.montgomery@sothebyshomes.com.



The Grand Prize in 2023 went to the Mass Family on Alma Real.

Photo: Morgan Genser

Need a little creative inspiration to get you started?

Here are 10 ideas to spruce up your home, apartment, mobile home, or condominium complex this Fourth of July.

- 1. Bust out the lights!** Those lights you store in a box all year long that only come out in December, why not line an American Flag in lights and hang it outside your front door or balcony?
- 2. "Float" your front yard.** Maybe you have kids' toys in the garage or workout equipment that served better as a coat rack for the past year; pull it out of retirement and give it a fun facelift with streamers and signs to replicate a float you'd see in the parade.
- 3. Recycle, repurpose, reuse.** Create shiny mobiles using household items like silverware and pie pans, tin foil, and metal trays from takeout; you might cut or form the foil into star shapes to string them along with other metal material to create a shiny symphony of sound and spirit to hang on your front lawn.
- 4. Play with mother nature.** Gather colorful flowers from the yard, store, or farmers market. Combine greenery, with sparkly items around the home to make a festive Fourth of July wreath and hang it on your door, balcony or porch.
- 5. Bunting is always a good idea.** Wrap your home or balcony up like a Fourth of July present and gift it to the neighborhood.
- 6. Create a patriotic memorial to those who served for our freedom.** A project for the whole family to participate, print or draw pictures of patriotic images and stake your lawn, balcony or porch with pride of the past.
- 7. Go traditional with red, white, and**

blue decorations that you make or buy. Because not all of us have the time or patience to create.

8. Free Solo. Make a red and blue solo cup

display on your lawn in the shape of the American Flag. Fill in with white paper cups to make the stars. Good news: you can
(Continued on Page 35)

Happy 4th of July from

CIRCLING THE NEWS

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Marge and Bob Gold took the Joan Sather Award.

Gold Family Receives Joan Sather Award

Last year's Joan Sather Memorial Sponsorship Award went to the Gold family on Las Casas. Although this is the first time they've won, Marge Gold said, "I do decorate every year and it is very do-it-yourself."

Marge said she had not planned to enter, but her husband Bob convinced her to send a photo to the contest. "I'm glad I did," she said, because, "The prizes were awesome."

Marge said she has a box of miscellaneous July 4 paraphernalia and "I try to use everything along my front fence."

This year was a little different because she put out ribbon in a basket and invited her neighbors to tie the red, white and blue streamers on her fence.

It was a popular idea and, "I didn't have enough ribbon, so I went to Michaels and spent \$14.75 on more." Marge said that neighbors of all ages stopped by to tie a ribbon.

The Golds feel that they won the Sather award because of the concept of involving neighbors to participate in the patriotic decorating.

"I was quite stunned and thrilled to win," Gold said. "I would encourage other Palisadians to enter next year. It doesn't take spending a lot on decorations or having it pro-

fessionally done."

The Golds received restaurant gift cards to Casa Nostra and Beech Street. They also received a gift certificate to Viktor Bene's bakery at Gelsons, a certificate to Anawalt and another at Ogden's Dry Cleaners.

Second Place and Runners-Up In 2023

The second-place winner in 2023 was the Grigsby Family at 805 Alma Real.

They received vegan skincare products from Aesop, a new store in Caruso's Palisades Village, a restaurant card from Café Vida and Viktor Benes, and certificates from Anawalt, Pali Barbershop and a manicure from Rosie's Nail Salon.

There were two runners up in 2023, the Dekernion Family and the Almaraz Family.

The Dekernions, located on Alma Real, received certificates to Delizioso Cinque, Viktor Benes, Ogden's Dry cleaners, a Black Ink gift basket, Anawalt and Pali Barbershop.

The Almaraz Family, located on Sunset, received a restaurant certificate to Taj Palace, Matthew's Garden Café, K Bakery and a gift card to Anawalt.

Decorating:

(Continued from Page 34)

re-use the cups later at your barbecue for beer pong.

9. Go Co-Op. Whether you live in a home, apartment building or condo, gather your

neighbors to create a theme and collectively decorate the front of your homes, balconies or windows.

10. Seeing stars. Borrow the skylight of their bedroom and project it onto the wall or a white sheet with a patriotic message.



Katie O'Neill
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Browne to Sing Anthem Before Fireworks Show

Palisades High School rising senior Willa Browne will sing the National Anthem to start the evening's fireworks show at the Stadium by the Sea.

Although she's never performed the song before a crowd, she considers it a privilege to sing it for the first time in her hometown.

"I've been coming to the fireworks since I was in elementary school," Browne said. "It is such an honor to be chosen to sing this year, and I am so excited to be part of the celebration that is so special to me and so many people."

She attended Kenter Canyon, before going to Paul Revere Middle School and then on to



Willa Browne

PaliHi, where she has had the leading role in several musicals including *Oliver* and *Matilda*.

Performing has been the one constant in her life since she appeared in *Annie* as a five-year-old at PAWS Summer Camp.

"I have always loved theater and participated in elementary school and summer camp musicals," Browne said. "I grew up surrounded by music and have always loved seeing shows and performing in them."

During elementary school, she was in *Annie* three times, playing Molly, Annie and Ms. Hannigan.

She was Lucy in *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown* and the Genie in *Aladdin*. In the musical *Into the Woods*, she was Cinderella and performed as Violet in *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*.

She has taken dance from Fancy Feet and studies voice with Katie Riggs and Jocelyn Scofield.

Her favorite musical is *West Side Story*, and if she could choose a role she would most like to perform, it would be Elpheba in *Wicked*. That role is considered demanding because Elphaba literally flies across the set while she sings.

Another role she'd like to tackle is Jenna from the musical based on the 2007 film *Waitress*. Jenna is a waitress and expert pie maker, who is stuck in a small town and a loveless marriage.

Follow her at PaliHi, but in the meantime, sit back and enjoy her lovely voice.



No one has to cook because eleven food trucks will be on hand.

Photo: Joy Daunis

YUMMY FOOD TRUCKS

Take July 4th off from cooking and come to the fireworks hungry. Select from 11 food choices. When the gates to the Palisades High School Stadium open at 6 p.m., head to the parking lot and choose from:

1. **Sunset Smash Burgers** opened its truck on Sunset Boulevard by Ralphs this summer, receiving rave reviews for delicious burgers and fries, done just right. The idea of two PaliHi alumni, it has rapidly become the place to go for great burgers. ([instagram.com/sunsetsmash](https://www.instagram.com/sunsetsmash))
2. **Cousins Maine Lobster** may be the only place to have lobster tots—tater tots served with warmed Maine lobster, cilantro lime sauce and pico de gallo or lobster tacos. ([cousinsmainelobster.com](https://www.cousinsmainelobster.com))
3. **Poutine Brothers** offers Canada's national dish, a base of double-fried French fries topped with cheese curds or meat and gravy from homemade ingredients. ([poutinebrothers.com](https://www.poutinebrothers.com))
4. **Baraka Grill** is a fully kosher restaurant offering a delectable array of Middle Eastern and vegan specialties, including falafel, schnitzel, and shawarma. ([barakagrill.com](https://www.barakagrill.com))
5. **Green Truck** uses only certified organic ingredients, protecting the body from harmful pesticides. Try the Wild Turkey Burger of the Kale Yeah Bowl. ([greentruckonthego.com](https://www.greentruckonthego.com))
6. **Angelenos' Wood Fired Pizza** was the winner of the Best in Dough Competition and now residents have a chance to try that delicious crust on the "Angeleno" pizza. ([angelenoswfp.com](https://www.angelenoswfp.com))
7. **Baby's Badass Burgers** features a variety of burgers—and don't forget the pigtails aka curly fries. ([babysbadassburgers.com](https://www.babysbadassburgers.com))

8. **The Lime Truck's** menu is a fusion of Mexican, Asian and Mediterranean flavors, yum! ([thelimetruck.com](https://www.thelimetruck.com))

9. **Richeeze** is a truck that gives interesting sandwiches, such as the bacon mac, the jalapeño popper melt, the Caprazy and even the classic grilled cheese. ([richeeze.net](https://www.richeeze.net))

10. **The Afters** serves ice cream—and if you haven't tried frozen hot cocoa, peanut butter smores, Thai tea or cookie monster, now's your chance. ([aftersicecream.com](https://www.aftersicecream.com))

11. **Kona Ice** is a shaved ice truck that brings one-of-a-kind tropical drinks, because patrons create it from one of 10 flavors, such as blue raspberry, watermelon, tiger's blood and island rush. ([kona-ice.com](https://www.kona-ice.com))

Fireworks Information

NO tickets will be sold at the gate. Everyone over the age of 3 must purchase tickets prior to the show (scan the QR code here or go to the website [palisades4th.com](https://www.palisades4th.com)). Last year the event sold out, so purchase now. Tickets will be scanned at the gate, but cellular service can be spotty, so printing out the ticket prior to coming is recommended.

The gate will open at 6 p.m. and there will be food trucks on site. Music will be provided by DJ Lee Dyson of Mister DJ.

Pets, smoking, coolers with outside food and drinks will not be permitted.

SEE PAGE 3 FOR
STREET CLOSURE INFO



Happiest 4th from your Palisades Democratic Club

Enjoy the parade! Then **save these dates:**

Sat, 8/17, "The Shame of [Political] Satire"

Sun, 9/8, PPDC GARDEN PARTY returns

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More info/RSVP: [palidems.org](https://www.palidems.org)

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Wishing Everyone a Safe and Happy 4th of July!



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Pyro Promises Spectacular Show

Pyro Spectacular Show Producer Marco Montenegro promises an amazing show for Pacific Palisades where more than 430 shells will be shot off on July 4th at Palisades High School's Stadium by the Sea.

This year's theme is "All-American," and will feature thirteen songs, including an Armed Forces Medley, "God Bless America," "American Heart," "Party in the U.S.A." and concluding with the finale, "Stars and Stripes Forever."

Montenegro said there would be several new effects this year, and to look for a shell that bursts into red, then a pause, then bursts into green, a pause and then bursts into sprinkles.

"I love designing the shows," said Montenegro, who received a film degree from USC. The Orange County native said to design a fireworks show is "almost like editing a movie."

He pairs the song with the effects on a computer program and the best is "if I design a show and can see the show in person." He loves watching the crowd's reaction. "It is very rewarding and very cool."

Montenegro, who has been with the company since 2016, most likely won't see the Palisades show, because on the Fourth, he serves as a trouble shooter in the

office. If a show is missing a piece of equipment, he drives it to the site.

Pyro Spectaculars, headquartered in Rialto, California, is recognized as America's premiere pyrotechnic production company and stages more than 400 shows on the 4th, including the Macy's Extravaganza in New York City, which is shot from five barges on the East River.

This business was started in the early 1900s, by Manuel de Sousa (the family name was Americanized to Souza).

He "mixed fireworks recipes" in his kitchen to bring pizzazz to local Portuguese celebrations. It soon became a business, as more and more people outside the community wanted breathtaking fireworks for special events.

Now the company is also working with drone shows. "Combining fireworks and drones is the best of both worlds," Montenegro said.

Residents may not have realized that it was Souza fireworks at Super Bowls and the Olympic games in Athens, Salt Lake City and Atlanta. Souza was also responsible for the fireworks for the 100th and 125th anniversaries of the Statue of Liberty.

With the upcoming World Cup and the Olympics slated for Los Angeles, Montenegro said, "there's a lot of productions in the works."



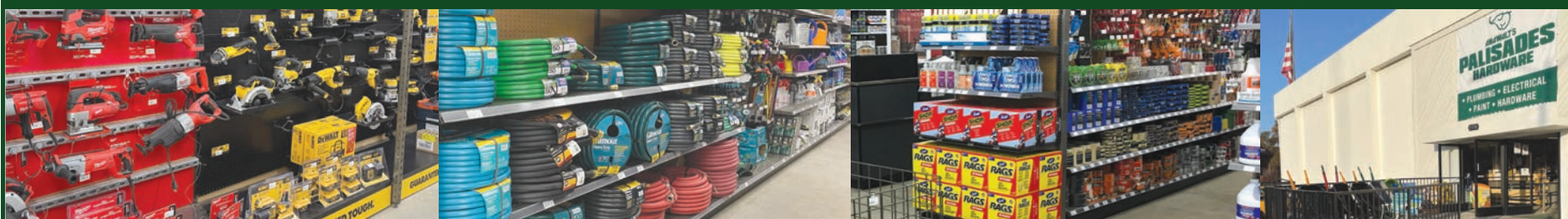
Residents gathered on the football field to watch professional fireworks by Pyro Spectacular.

Photo: Rich Schmitt Photography



Photo: Morgan Genser

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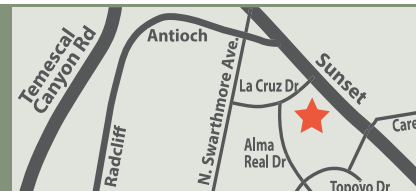
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Bathe, then Parade

This will be Paws N' Claws' 22nd year of sponsoring Patriotic Pups in the parade.

All kinds and breeds of canines are welcome, but pets need to get along with other dogs and not mind horses and crowds.

"The bigger the turnout of dogs, the more fun," said Leslie Buck, Paws N' Claws manager.

Everyone interested in marching with their dog will meet at 1 p.m. on July 4 in front of Palisades Elementary. Buck will have waivers that can be completed at the school before the parade.

All furry baby 4th of July participants will receive bandanas, water, a collapsible bowl and poop bags.

Paws N' Claws is a family business that was purchased from the original owner in 1969 by Barbara Buck and Henry Marting.

Today, daughter Leslie is the manager of both the grooming parlor and the store, and day-to-day operations. Barbara and Henry do paperwork, correspondence, computer work and overall operations.

Leslie's daughter Devyn Delgado works at the shop, too, as the bathing manager. The shop employs six people, all of whom are animal lovers.

They were asked if there is a certain breed



Dogs of the employees of Paws N' Claws take a bath before getting ready to march in the parade.

that is more difficult to groom, but for the PawsN'Claws professionals, all breeds are welcomed.

"Grooming dogs is a challenge," Buck said. "Patience and energy are definitely required."

If there is one piece of advice the grooming salon would give customers is to "brush and comb your fur baby regularly."

Another popular offering at the shop at

16634 Marquez is the non-anesthesia dental cleaning on the first Wednesday of the month. Dogs can have their teeth scaled and cleaned, and a mobile van with a vet on board gives a free health wellness exam prior to the cleaning.

In addition to working with Pacific Palisades pets, "shelters are our focus," Buck said. The store provides a dropping place for shelter donation drives, collecting blankets, beds

and treats.

"One just ended," Buck said. "There were donations of new and used items for six shelters across L.A. County."

About sponsoring the Patriotic Pups, the family agrees, "it's the high point of the year."

Paws N' Claws Grooming Salon and Boutique is located at 16634 Marquez Ave. Contact (310) 459-2009 or go to [pawsnclaws.palisades](https://www.pawsnclaws.palisades.com) on Instagram.



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We commemorate the Declaration of Independence, and celebrate 38 years of service to our community.



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IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America,

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation. — We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security. — Such has been the patient Sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world. — He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good. — He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them. — He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of People, unless those People would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only. — He has called together legislative Bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their Public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures. — He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the People. — He has refused for a long time, after such Dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative Powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of Invasion from without, and convulsions within. — He has endeavoured to prevent the Population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Law for Naturalization of Strangers; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands. — He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers. — He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and Payment of their salaries. — He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our People, and eat out their Substance. — He has kept among us, in Times of Peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our Legislatures. — He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power. — He has combined with others to subject us to a Jurisdiction foreign to our Constitution, and unacknowledged by our Laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation: — For quartering large Bodies of armed Troops among us: — For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from Punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States: — For calling off our Trade with all parts of the world: — For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent: — For depriving us in many Cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury: — For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences: — For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies: — For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments: — For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever. — He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us. — He has plundered our Seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our Towns, and destroyed the Lives of our People. — He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to complete the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized Nation. — He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Swords. — He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the Inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions. In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered by repeated injury. A Prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free People. Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their Legislature to extend an unwarrantable Jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native Justice and Magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which, would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of Justice and of Consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be, Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. — And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the Protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

Wotton Gwinnett
 Lyman Hall
 Geo. Walton.

John Hooper
 Joseph Hewes
 John Penn

Edward Rutledge

Thos. Mifflin
 Thomas Lynch
 Arthur Middleton

Samuel Chase
 Wm. Paca
 Tho. Stone
 Charles Carroll of Carrollton

George Wythe
 Richard Henry Lee
 Th. Jefferson
 Wm. Harrison
 Th. Nelson Jr.
 Francis Lightfoot Lee
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Robt Morris
 Benjamin Rush
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 John Morton

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 Thos. Smith
 Geo. Taylor
 James Wilson
 Geo. Ross
 Casar Rodney
 G. Mifflin
 Tho. M. Drake

John Jay
 Phil. Livingston
 Jaan Lewis
 Lewis Morris

Rich. Stockton
 Geo. Witherspoon
 Thos. Hopkinson
 John Hart
 Abra. Clark

Josiah Bartlett
 Wm. Mifflin
 Saml. Adams
 John Adams
 Robt. Treat Paine
 Elbridge Gerry
 Steph. Hopkins
 William Ellery
 Roger Sherman
 Saml. Huntington
 M^{rs}. Williams
 Oliver Wolcott
 Nathaniel Gorham