

90272

magazine

*Holidays
in the
Palisades*



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by Caruso

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On behalf of the One Coast team, thank you to the Pacific Palisades community for the warm welcome. As we enter a new season, One Coast celebrates \$30MM in recent sales, continues to welcome new homeowners and looks forward to joining the community in a series of local beach cleanups at Sunset Beach – recently adopted by the oceanfront enclave in partnership with with The Surfrider Foundation L.A. Come experience this only-of-its-kind offering on the bluffs, featuring expansive ocean views, personalized concierge services, 24/7 manned gatehouse and an observation terrace.

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COVER PHOTO BY RICH SCHMITT

KRE
+ Associates

Best Wishes for a
Happy Holiday Season
and a Joyous New Year!



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GIVING BACK

Local entities allow Palisadians to give back during the holiday season.

BY MAGNOLIA LAFLEUR

It's that time of year again, when there's just a little more cheer in the air and the chance for community members to spread the joy of the season by giving back to locally based toy and food drives.

Vittorio Ristorante & Pizzeria in Marquez Knolls is teaming up with Claris Health and Sons of the American Legion to host a luncheon toy drive event on December 12.

Claris Health bills itself as a nonprofit organization designed to help struggling families, with facilities in West Los Angeles and Lynwood, as well as a mobile medical clinic.

It specializes in assisting women before, during and after pregnancy, ensuring those in need have access to prenatal care, parenting classes and any supplies that aid families with children under the age of 5.

This year the organization is asking for new, unwrapped gifts, such as sports equipment, art supplies, shoes, sportswear and inexpensive bracelets. An Amazon wishlist can be found at bit.ly/vittorios2021.

"Buses will be bringing 100 kids in from Lynwood Community Center," Vittorio Owner Vanes-



The toy drive at Vittorio Ristorante & Pizzeria in 2020

PHOTOS BY RICH SCHMITT

sa Pelligrini explained to *90272 Magazine* ahead of the event. "Each kid has given us their wish-list of gifts, so each gift is exactly what each child has asked for."

To top it all off, The Adderley School is slated to be in attendance to fill the air with holiday carols. Los Angeles Fire Department Station 69 will be bringing a truck for the kids to see, and Santa Claus will be on hand to

personally give each child a gift.

"The pandemic is over for some of us but not for a vast majority who can't get jobs," Pelligrini said. "The homeless stayed homeless. It didn't change for them. It's a tough place to be right now, and these kids are totally innocent and need our help."

Vittorio has hosted this toy drive for the past 12 years and aimed each year to make it a spe-

cial day for the children.

"We try to give each kid one thing off their wish list," Pelligrini explained. "One year, a kid asked for a baby goat, which we can't do, but [we] did do a stuffed baby goat."

Santa Claus, played for 12 years by Pelligrini's friend Jon Duede, expressed that he loves to see the kids' faces light up.

"We really need Santa this

year," Duede shared. "Kids themselves should just believe. It's been a rough year and they need something to believe in. So, Santa's the guy."

Anyone interested in donating can email Pelligrini at vanessa@vittoriosla.com.

Another local entity, SoNeighborly—a home management service owned by Palisadian Frank Renfro that is designed to help neighbors find the best local home improvement professionals—will be partnering with fellow Palisades-owned business, Casamia, a curating tablescapes design company, to donate and deliver dinner party boxes.

They will be collecting tableware, glassware, silverware and any items used for dining, as well as non-perishable canned goods, during a contactless drop off on December 18.

All items donated will go to Harvest Home, a nonprofit residential program in Santa Monica that helps women and their children reach a more stable and self-sufficient future. Palisadians interested in helping can email frank@soneighborly.com.

An ongoing food drive benefiting those in need is being hosted by Devin McNichol and Aaron



Devin McNichol and Aaron Bernbach organize donations.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MCNICHOL-BERNBACH GROUP



Vanessa Pelligrini shares the toy drive has been a tradition for 12 years.



Bernbach from The McNichol-Bernbach Group, which is based in the Pacific Palisades office of Rodeo Realty. The two are working with Westside Food Bank for the third year in a row, collecting non-perishable foods.

Westside Food Bank is a nonprofit that works to end food hunger and food disparities in its area with more than 10 million meals being donated this year alone.

McNichol and Bernbach

also work with Palisadian businesses to thank donors by giving them a small gift.

“We also like supporting local businesses,” McNichol shared, “and this year, everyone who donates will get a gift card from a local business.”

To date, the two have raised 900 pounds of food and will continue to collect through the holidays. During a previous collection toward the end of 2020, the two amassed more than 700

pounds of food and 250 pounds of cereal.

“The reason we choose [Westside Food Bank] is that we believe that everyone deserves access to clean and healthy food,” Bernbach and McNichol shared at the time. “Year round, Westside Food Bank donates healthy food to 110,000 people every day.”

Donors can email info@devinandaaron.com to arrange a drop-off time.

Palisades P.R.I.D.E.

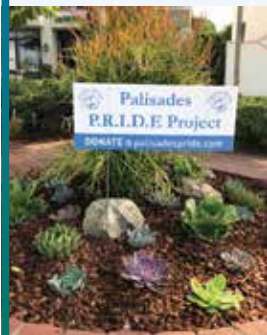


Wishes You and Yours A Heartfelt Happy Holiday Season, Joyful New Year, and a Healthy & Prosperous 2022

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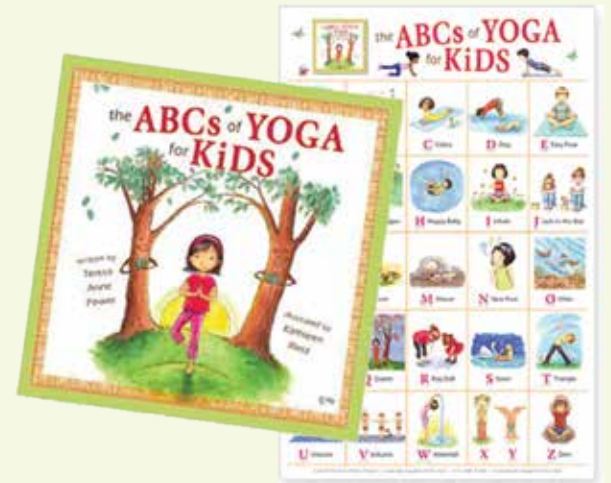


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2021 HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

Shop local in the Palisades



◀ Holiday Sweaters
\$30-40
PAWS & CLAWS
16634 Marquez Ave.



Salvage Maria Dog Bed ▶
\$139-289
COLLAR & LEASH
518 Palisades Drive



▲ Christopher Radko Ornaments
\$36-63
BLACK INK
869 Swarthmore Ave.



◀ Holiday Basket
\$18-75
DENISE CAROLYN
15276 Antioch Street



◀ Emily P Wheeler
California Ring
\$12,900
ELYSEWALKER
15306 Antioch Street



▲ Valencia Sunglasses
\$199
ANINE BING
15231 Palisades Village Lane



▲ Hanukkah Hand Towel
\$8.75
ELIZABETH LAMONT
15221 Sunset Blvd.



Bamboo Salad Bowls ▶
\$10-60
GIFT GARDEN
15266 Antioch Street

◀ Holiday Garlands
\$24
THE LITTLE MARKET
1010 Swarthmore Ave.



Home Is Where the Heart Is

I am forever grateful to the family, friends, clients and associates that I have connected with over the years. I am and will always be thankful to be of service to those who have called on me.

Wishing you and yours good company as the holidays approach. It is clear now more than ever that home is where the heart is.

Happy Holidays and good health to all in 2022!



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2021 HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

Shop local in the Palisades



▲ Set of Three Holiday Scented Candles
\$126
DIPTYQUE
15275 Palisades Village Lane



▲ Egg Nog & Snickerdoodle Swirl
\$12
MCCONNELL'S FINE ICE CREAMS
15209 Palisades Village Lane



◀ Merry Gnomes Gift Pack
\$68
SEE'S CANDIES
15213 Palisades Village Lane



▲ Rubik's Professor
\$32.95
PUZZLE ZOO
15121 Sunset Blvd.

▶ Gingerbread Cookie Dough Gift Set
\$21
SWEET LAUREL
15279 Sunset Blvd.



▲ Smoked Sipping Tequila
\$65-85
THE SMOKE LABEL
thesmokelabel.com
Available at Erewhon, Ronny's and Wally's



▶ Room & Aura Mists
\$20-30
BEACH HOUSE BY MIKAILA

beachhousebymikaila.com; Pacific Palisades Farmers Market



◀ Crazy Aaron's Putty
\$14-19
PUZZLE ZOO
15121 Sunset Blvd.



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16815 LIVORNO DRIVE
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Sold for \$4,950,000



715 ILIFF STREET
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Sold for \$4,297,875



954 GALLOWAY STREET
4 Bed | 2.5 Bath
Sold for \$3,525,000

*Wishing you and yours the happiest and healthiest holiday season!
Looking forward to serving you in 2022.*



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2021 HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

Shop local in the Palisades



◀ Soulbyrd Hat
\$48
Ragaman Shirt
\$120
PALISKATES
1021 Swarthmore Ave.



▲ Aviator Nation Casual Wear
Prices vary
KEETAN
1015 Swarthmore Ave.



◀ Hats & T-Shirts
\$19.95
PALISADIAN-POST
palipost.com



◀ Raquel Allegra
Evil Eye
Cardigan
\$680
TOWNE BY ELYSEWALKER
15257 Palisades
Village Lane



▲ Williams Shirt
in Dusted Oak
\$189
PAIGE
1051 Swarthmore Ave.



◀ Textured Wrap Scarf
\$265
VINCE
1026 Swarthmore Ave.



◀ Hammitt Purse
& Wallet
\$95 each
BOCA
970 Monument Street



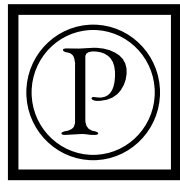
▲ 8 Oak Lane Pajama Set
BELLEZZA
867 Via De La Paz



◀ Celeste Bikini Top
\$158
Azoia Tie-Waist
Bikini Bottom
\$158
VERONICA BEARD
1062 Swarthmore Ave.

Bella Ecomove Active Dress ▶
\$98
REFORMATION
15225 Palisades Village Lane





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THE GIFT OF SENIOR HOME CARE SUPPORT

In-home care services provide the unique gift of meaningful care, companionship and freedom for families to connect.

BY BEN ADEL

Home care delivers a beautiful gift to the entire family. So many of us with senior parents, or entering our own golden years, recognize the special connection of aging in our own home.

A recent AARP study revealed that 90% of people over the age of 65 would prefer to “age in place” and stay in their home into their advanced years. That’s a big shift from traditional nursing homes or assisted living communities.

With this rising preference for an at-home senior care experience, some families decide to take on the role of “personal caregiver” for their senior loved ones. So many adopt the “we take care of our own” ethic. But it can take a toll on all parties.

IT'S NOT JUST OK TO ASK FOR HELP, IT'S IMPORTANT FOR EVERYONE

There’s another important shift happening—acknowledging burnout as a roadblock to personal and family fulfillment, and asking for help in sharing the physical and mental load from those we trust.

This is exactly where senior home care, home health services and even end-of-life hospice are providing critical, meaningful and valuable gifts for families.

SHIFTING FROM FAMILY CAREGIVER TO PROFESSIONAL HOME CARE

Caregivers provide extra support not only to parents and loved ones, but to the family members who give so much of themselves to help those parents and loved ones.

Consider home care an invaluable strategy of adding compassionate and experienced team members to the important, trusted resources that go into caring for your loved ones.

WHEN TO CONSIDER HOME CARE

Providing meaningful elderly care in the home to a parent or loved one comes with an enormous responsibility. If your loved one is skipping meals, shows an increase in accidents, forgets to take important medications or struggles with activities of daily living, that’s where a caregiver can step in.

Some of the most important duties for



PHOTO COURTESY OF LUXE HOMECARE

senior home care professionals include:

- Light housekeeping
- Medication reminders
- Bathing
- Dressing
- Meal preparation and feeding

One additional meaningful service provided through home care is companionship. Isolation can be so tough on individuals, especially during the holidays. Reliable home care agencies know the importance of forming a genuine match between a fully vetted caregiver and senior client.

HOME HEALTH SERVICES: THE GIFT OF MEDICAL SERVICES AT HOME

Home health services provide for specific doctor-prescribed medical needs, calling upon healthcare professionals to administer ongoing at-home medical care. In the state of California, home health services may be covered by Medi-Cal, Medicare, long term care insurance, private health insurance, VA benefits and more.

Home health services are medical in nature and may include:

- Doctor care
- Nursing care
- Licensed clinical social workers
- Physical therapy

- Occupational therapy
- Speech therapy

All of these services can be provided in the comfort of your home, a benefit that regularly contributes to faster recovery times following hospitalization, and more time for families to enjoy that does not always focus on treatment and transportation.

HOSPICE CARE: THE GIFT OF SAYING GOODBYE WITH DIGNITY

Saying goodbye when our time has come can be so difficult. Choosing the path of professional hospice in the home centers the journey on dignity and comfort.

Families who include home hospice alleviate “the chores” by handing them to a caring team and can then focus on remaining close to their loved ones, sharing memories, reading stories, enjoying meaningful music or hobbies.

These are tender moments for families, and it’s in these times support and comfort mean the most.

Professional at-home hospice services typically include:

- Pain management
- Emotional and spiritual care
- Family support
- Long term care

insurance management

PROVIDING THE GIFT OF QUALITY TIME TOGETHER

Perhaps the most significant impact of at-home senior care is how families are freed to make their time together less task-driven and more socially engaged.

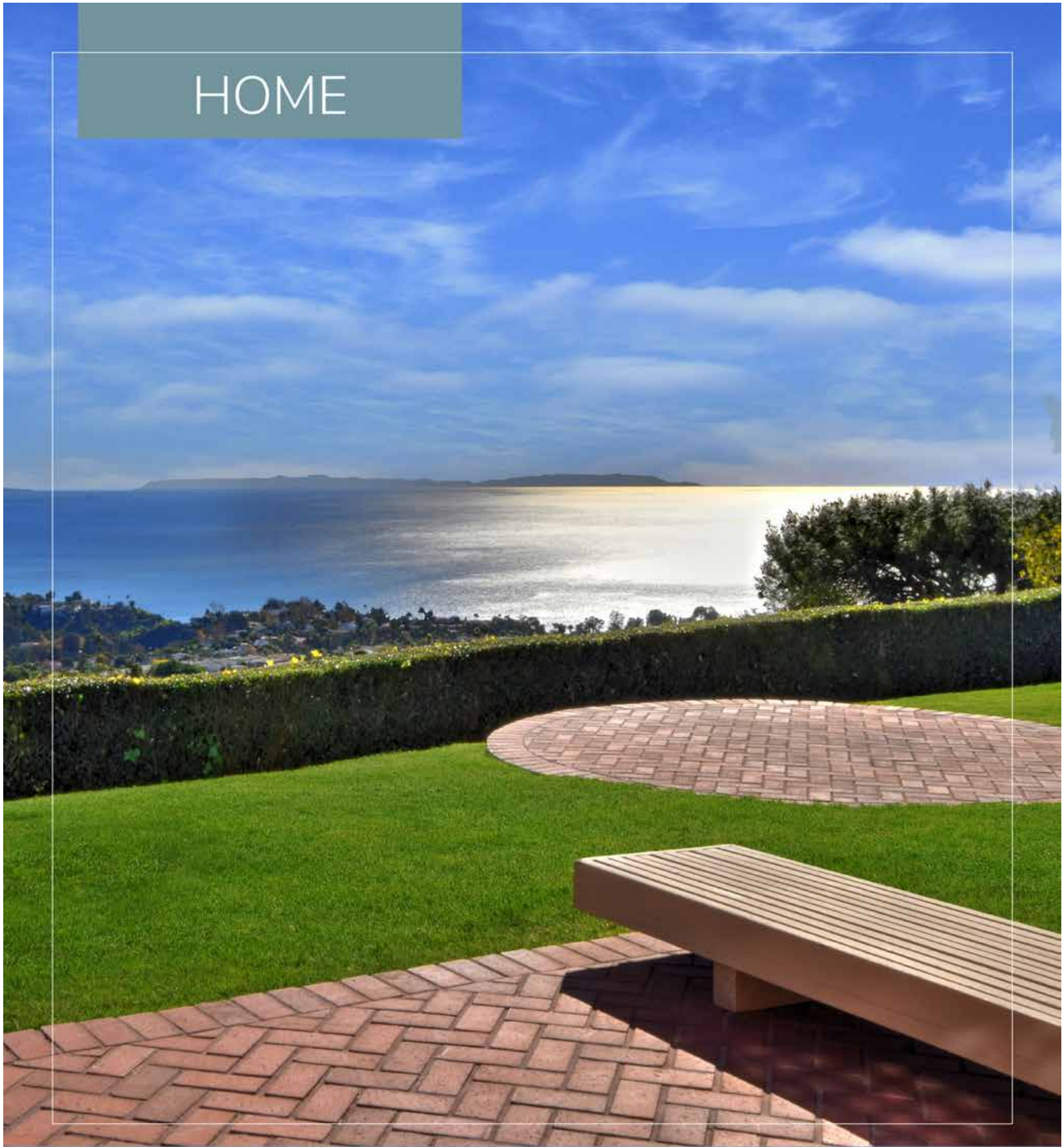
Spending a large quantity of time together in the context of chores and treatments carries the risk of exhaustion and burnout. Home care, home health and even hospice at-home services allow for that important shift to quality time, knowing that the most important tasks are covered.

Of all the gifts worth giving this holiday season and throughout the year, our time, love and support continue to rise as the sweetest and most valuable to all involved in senior care.

If you’re ready to consider at-home care for yourself or your loved one, we’re here to help deliver this very special gift.

Ben Adel is cofounder of Luxe Homecare, a Pacific Palisades-based home care and home health agency offering services in Los Angeles. They provide round-the-clock support, including registered nurses (RN and LVN) and rehabilitation services, as well as in-home hospice services. Think you and your loved one might benefit from extra support? Contact the Luxe team at 310-459-3535 or visit luxehomecare.com.

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TIME TO GET FESTIVE

Here are several options, in Pacific Palisades and beyond, to take holiday photos and celebrate the season.

BY LILY TINOCO

With Thanksgiving, the 2021 holiday season has officially arrived, giving Palisadians plenty of opportunities for festive photos and ways to celebrate.

Whether you're looking to capture the entire family alongside Mr. and Mrs. Claus or just to get into the spirit, *90272 Magazine* has rounded up a collection of spots in and around town to make any jolly wishes come true.



The Palisades Village tree

PHOTO COURTESY OF CARUSO

PALISADES VILLAGE 15225 Palisades Village Lane

Although Santa Claus will not be returning this year to his cottage in Palisades Village, Palisadians can still drop by and take a photo with the glistening tree.

The property features its very own majestic fir that soars 50 feet above guests, adorned with 3,000 twinkling lights and hundreds of ornaments. The tree, with all of its adornments, will be up through December 25.

"Perfect for holiday photos ... Palisades Village offers a cozy setting for getting into the holiday spirit," a representative for Caruso shared.

Caruso also announced a partnership

with Chabad Jewish Community Center of Pacific Palisades and will host a community menorah lighting ceremony on the first night of the Hanukkah, November 28, and each evening through December 5.

THE ELF ON THE SHELF'S MAGICAL HOLIDAY JOURNEY 1101 W. McKinley Avenue

Following the success of 2020's sold-out event, Scout Elf Tiny Tinkerman has returned for what is being billed a "bigger and better outdoor magical holiday journey" through the Pomona Fairplex.

"With Christmas Spirit running low, Santa's sleigh had to make an emergency landing," according to The Elf on the Shelf's Magical Holiday Journey website. "Now, Scout Elf Tiny Tinkerman and Santa's best Scout Elves need your help. Join them on a quest to build more Christmas Spirit, as you and your elf-loving crew magically shrink down to elf size and embark on a fun expedition through dazzling outdoor winter wonderland to help repair Santa's sleigh."

In 2021, the journey has been redesigned to offer additional scenery and lights, outdoor ice skating, open-air trolleys, a Christmas village, holiday treats, gift shopping, and walking paths (instead of traversing the path in a car, like last year). Those who attend will also have a chance to create a keepsake, as well as donate to a Toys for Tots drive.

The Elf on the Shelf's Magical Holiday Journey, which is family friendly and about one hour long, runs through January 2, 2022. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit elfontheshelfjourney.com/los-angeles.

PALISADES-MALIBU YMCA CHRISTMAS TREE LOT AT SIMON MEADOW 15551 Sunset Boulevard

What better way is there to get into the spirit of the holidays than with a freshly cut tree?

Community members are invited to choose theirs with help from the Palisades-Malibu YMCA at its annual Christmas Tree Lot, slated to open December 1.

Jim Kirtley, executive director of Palisades-Malibu YMCA, explained that the tree lot is an annual fundraiser for the



The Elf on the Shelf's Magical Holiday Journey

PHOTO COURTESY OF ELF ON THE SHELF

YMCA. And although he has been working the tree lot since the year 2000, it has been a tradition since at least the '80s.

The lot will offer a variety of fresh, first-cut trees from Oregon, showcasing a selection from table-top-sized to 13 feet.

"I am excited to say we will have some new varieties that are absolutely beautiful trees," he said to *90272 Magazine*.

This year's choices include noble and vintage noble firs, silver tips and North Carolina Frasers firs.

Hours of operation will be Monday through Friday from 3 to 7 p.m., as well as Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., until the trees sell out. Local deliveries will be available.

"Come early, get the best trees on

the Westside, enjoy Simon Meadow, and support your local YMCA and its good works," Kirtley said.

All proceeds stay local to help support different scholarships and programs.

This season, the tree lot will be located at Simon Meadow at the corner of Sunset Boulevard and Temescal Canyon Road.

PALISADES BAKING GROUP HOLIDAY PARTY AND COOKIE SWAP 16001 Pacific Coast Highway

'Tis the season for sweet treats and fun eats: The Palisades Baking Group is hosting its first-ever holiday party on



The Palisades Baking Group, pictured at a previous event. PHOTO BY RICH SCHMITT



"In the Present" display

PHOTO COURTESY OF BEVERLY CENTER



Holiday Road at King Gillette Ranch

PHOTO COURTESY OF HOLIDAY ROAD

Saturday, December 11, from 2 to 6 p.m.

Palisadians are invited to attend—but not empty handed: The event will be a potluck and “cookie swap.” Guests can bring small bites, finger foods, appetizers, holiday-themed baked goods or a treat of their choice.

Those who would like to participate in the cookie swap are asked to bring a dozen of their choice of cookies with its corresponding recipe to exchange with one another.

The group will also be collecting canned food items to donate at the event. Suggested items include peanut butter, canned fruit, boxed pasta, canned tuna and similar items.

Among the party festivities are a holiday sing-a-long, holiday games and a raffle for the chance to win two baking-related gifts.

“[I] hope we can make this a holiday tradition for years to come,” El Medio Bluffs resident and event organizer Bianca Gomez said.

Gomez launched the Palisades Baking

Group on Nextdoor in December 2020 because of her own love for baking. Since then, more than 100 community members have joined the online group, sharing recipes, tips and tricks with one another.

Individuals can join Palisades Baking Group and learn more about the event by finding them on Nextdoor.

HOLIDAYS AT THE BEVERLY CENTER 8500 Beverly Boulevard

The Beverly Center boasts a collection of luxury and contemporary brands, specialty stores, and restaurants—as well as a series of interactive and immersive experiences to kick off the season.

In the Grand Court, guests can take photos at the “In the Present” holiday display, which features a “larger-than-life,” 35-foot tree, mirrored boxes and a light-up installation, open now through December 31.

Patrons can also catch Santa Claus as he strolls through the center spreading

holiday cheer. He is slated to make hourly visits to the Grand Court December 19 through 23. Guests are invited to stop and snap a picture with him.

On Level 8, guests can immerse themselves in “The Nutcracker” with a walk-through experience from the producers of the Russian Ballet Theatre that will offer a look at iconic moments, characters and settings as seen in the ballets and stories from Tchaikovsky’s score. The experience begins November 26 and runs through December 31.

HOLIDAY ROAD AT KING GILLETTE RANCH 26800 Mulholland Highway

Located in Calabasas, the Holiday Road experience is not to be missed: The event will open December 3 and run through December 31.

Guests are invited to traverse a one-mile, self-guided trail that unveils a winter wonderland complete with the North Pole, an Elf Village, Gingerbread Lane,

Christmas tree forests and more.

Event organizers promise “expansive grounds filled with eye-catching, twinkling lights and festive installations [that] will welcome visitors as they meander through the winding trail.”

“Enjoy a variety of food and beverages, capture those Instagrammable moments, join in the fun with interactive experiences, or visit holiday bars for a seasonal cocktail to take with you on the trail,” according to the website.

The experience showcases the work of production and hospitality industry veterans Ben Biscotti, co-founder and president of Liota Productions, award-winning event producer and designer Tony Schubert of Event Eleven, and hospitality and marketing manager Bobby Rossi of Motley Projects.

Tickets start at \$29.99 per person, depending on the day of the week and time of the season. Children 2 years and under can attend for free.

Tickets are available now at [tixr.com/groups/holidayroadusa](https://www.tixr.com/groups/holidayroadusa).



Palisades-Malibu YMCA Tree Lot in 2020

PHOTO BY RICH SCHMITT



Snapping festive photos at Beverly Center PHOTO COURTESY OF BEVERLY CENTER

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

90272 Magazine has assembled a list of things to do in and around town.

'A COMEDY OF TENORS'

Theatre Palisades' latest show, a sequel to 2019's hit "Lend Me A Tenor," runs Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., as well as Sundays at 2 p.m., through December 12 at Pierson Playhouse.

theatrepalisades.org

PALISADES UNITY MENORAH LIGHTING

Chabad of Pacific Palisades is once again partnering with Palisades Village to host the annual Palisades Unity Menorah Lighting, which will take place on the first night of Hanukkah—Sunday, November 28, at 5 p.m.—on Swarthmore Avenue and feature Honorary Mayor Eugene Levy.

palisadesvillageca.com

HOLIDAY TOURS

The Adamson House, which is dec-

orated for the season, will host a series of Holiday Tours between December 1 and 31—with all profits from this year's winter fundraiser benefiting the Malibu Adamson House Foundation, which assists with upkeep and preservation of the historical house.

adamsonhouse.org

VIRTUAL BUILD YOUR BOARD CLASS

In the midst of holiday celebrations, Gelson's will host a virtual class that shows participants how to craft a "festive and deliciously flavorful cheese and charcuterie board" on Thursday, December 2, at 6 p.m.

gelsons.com/buildyourboard

ANNUAL HOLIDAY CONCERT - A BAROQUE CHRISTMAS

The Choir and Soloists of St. Matthew's Parish, as well as the Chamber

Orchestra, will host an annual holiday concert, featuring works by George Frederick Handel and Michel Corrette, on December 3 at 8 p.m.

musicguildonline.org

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AND GOLDEN SPARKPLUG AWARDS

The Pacific Palisades Community Council will hand out its 2021 Citizen of the Year and Golden Sparkplug Awards during a virtual presentation on Thursday, December 9, between 6 and 7:30 p.m.

pacpalicc.org

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE

Friday Night Live will host two holiday-time shows (not for children, teacher Nancy Fracchiolla warned) at Palisades Charter High School in Gilbert Hall on Friday, December 10, at 7 p.m. and 9 p.m.

palihigh.org

2021 HO! HO! HO!

This year's edition of the annual Ho! Ho! Ho! will take place at the Palisades-Malibu YMCA Tree Lot at Simon Meadow on Saturday, December 11, between 3 and 5 p.m.

palitown.com

'IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE'

Theatre Palisades Membership Entertainment will host its eighth annual Christmas Radio Show at Pierson Playhouse on Wednesday, December 15, starting at 7 p.m.

theatrepalisades.org

TAKE 6 CHRISTMAS

The Grammy Award-winning a capella group will perform a Christmas concert at Pepperdine University on Wednesday, December 15, at 8 p.m.

arts.pepperdine.edu



The cast of "A Comedy of Tenors" PHOTOS BY RICH SCHMITT



Take 6

PHOTO COURTESY OF PEPPERDINE



A previous Ho! Ho! Ho!



Palisades Unity Menorah Lighting in 2020

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| 1416 Longworth Dr, Los Angeles | | Offered at \$3,639,000 |
| 15000 McKendree Ave, Pacific Palisades | | Offered at \$3,695,000 |
| 17350 Sunset Blvd #702, Pacific Palisades | | Offered at \$899,000 |
| 4074 Willow Creek Rd, Paso Robles | | Offered at \$825,000 |
| 547 Muskingum Ave, Pacific Palisades | | Offered at \$3,295,000 |
| 559 Almoloya Dr, Pacific Palisades | | Offered at \$4,900,000 |
| 826 Alma Real Drive, Pacific Palisades | | Offered at \$4,250,000 |



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DRINK UP

Palisades-owned The Smoke Label provides recipes for festive cocktails to be enjoyed during the holidays and all year round.



Palisades Margarita

After first falling in love with the smoked flavor of mezcal, Marquez Knolls resident Jennifer Erwin began smoking premium spirits in her kitchen, experimenting with different flavors.

Several trips to Jalisco, Mexico, later, she created what she referred to as her “dream spirit,” which is “an artisan-crafted tequila, with highlights of vanilla and a smooth, smoky bouquet.”

Each bottle of The Smoke Label tequila is made from naturally grown 100% Weber blue agaves, without the use of pesticides. Erwin and her master distiller, Joel Garcia, use the ancestral process—employed by about 1% of tequila makers today—in which the agave pinas are slow smoked over a fire in a handmade stone enclave, while the juice is double distilled with spring water from the Cienega region of Jalisco.

“After the juice is twice distilled, the Blanco goes right to the bottle, avoiding flavor contamination and impurities by being held in a tank,” according to The Smoke Label website. “The Reposado is matured in French oak cognac barrels, developing an aromatic bouquet of vanilla



Midnight Margarita

and hints of woodsmoke.”

Erwin and her husband, Jesse, shared two recipes featuring the tequila, which can be enjoyed alongside a holiday meal or anytime around the year.

MIDNIGHT MARGARITA

- 2 oz The Smoke Label Blanco
- 1.5 oz lime juice
- .5 oz pineapple juice

- .5 oz Cointreau
- .5 oz agave syrup
- Pinch of activated charcoal
- Egg white sea salt foam

PALISADES MARGARITA

- 1.5 oz The Smoke Label Reposado
- 1.5 oz lime juice
- .5 oz Giffard Banane Du Bresil
- .25 oz agave syrup

- 2 to 3 dashes tobacco bitters

The instructions for both drinks are simple: shake, pour over large cube, garnish and enjoy.

The Smoke Label is now available across the community and beyond, including at Erewhon, Ronny’s Market, Colony House, Wally’s, Qué Padre and Hank’s.

When launching the company, Erwin wanted to do something to give back to animals. She shared that she was reading “American Wolf,” which tells the story of a legendary female pack leader at Yellowstone National Park who taught scientists that when an animal is removed, the environment changes and suffers.

In honor of the wolf, O-Six, who was killed by a trophy hunter in 2012, The Smoke Label’s bottles feature a hand-drawn wolf, created by Erwin’s mother, modeled after the pack leader, along with the tagline “Unleash Your Call to the Wild”—and 5% of sales are donated to wildlife conservation.

For more information or to purchase a bottle, visit thesmokelabel.com.

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DANCING INTO THE SEASON

Westside Ballet's 2021 performances of "The Nutcracker" will feature Palisadian dancers.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF TODD LECHTICK

BY LILY TINOCO

After a break in 2020 due to ongoing COVID-19 pandemic-related restrictions, classic holiday-time ballet "The Nutcracker," performed by Westside Ballet of Santa Monica, will return to the stage this year with several Palisadian dancers.

Westside Ballet's late Co-Founder Yvonne Mounsey brought "The Nutcracker" to Los Angeles in 1973, adding her own choreography—today, the company's rendition of the beloved ballet is Southern California's longest-running production.

From 1973 to 2011, Mounsey oversaw Westside Ballet's annual performances of the show, teaching dancers the same choreography and techniques she learned directly from George Balanchine. The show is a close rendition of Balanchine's classical ballet, which was an homage to the original story—first danced in 19th century Russia.

Changes and adaptations to the production have since been made under Martine Harley, Westside Ballet of Santa Monica's artistic director, who succeeded Mounsey in 2013.



Giving Thanks....

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“Westside’s ‘Nutcracker’ has withstood the test of time, remaining a coveted tradition for our community and dancers for nearly five decades ... the goal is always to maintain the integrity of our cherished ‘Nutcracker’ and also keep it fresh and [appropriate] for the current generations,” Harley said in a statement. “We know audiences are eager to once more experience the ballet they’ve loved for so long—especially after our 2020 hiatus from the stage, which had us creating an innovative black box theater in our studio in order to perform an abbreviated and virtual performance for families.”

Many professional dancers have made their stage debuts in Westside Ballet’s “Nutcracker,” including Harley, Melissa Barak, Stayce Camparo, Andrew Veyette and Broadway star Lyrica Woodruff. The show has been described as “the perfect opportunity to introduce children to classical music and dance.”

“The Westside production preserves its most treasured traditional characters and scenes: the tree that grows, a firing cannon and falling snow over a stunning corps de ballet of glittering snowflakes,” according to a press release. “Charming children’s roles include party children, mice and soldiers.”

Six young Palisadians are making their way to the stage this year: Zoya Abyzov, Evie Tontonoz, Elise DuFour, Addison Russell, Olivia Yu and Ava Bakhshandehpour. The dancers can be seen as Mice, Snow, Candy, Soldiers, Flowers, Polichinelle and more.

Abyzov, a fifth-grader, has danced at Westside Ballet since she was 8 years old. This will be her first “Nutcracker” performance.

“I am very excited to be dancing on stage again ... I really love dancing at Westside Ballet because it has a disciplined and serious approach,” she shared. “I hope to reach my full potential here.”



The show will also be Bakhshandehpour’s first “Nutcracker” performance. The Alphabet Streets resident is relatively new to Westside Ballet, but has been dancing her whole life.

“I really enjoy dancing,” she shared with *90272 Magazine*. “It makes me feel really happy when I’m dancing, it brings me so much joy, and I love the artistry of ballet. I think every position that you make is so beautiful, there’s really nothing that quite compares to it in my eyes.”

Bakhshandehpour said she is outpouring with excitement for the upcoming production of “The Nutcracker.”

“It’s going to be so exciting to be back on stage, and I really love performing, so that’s the part I’m most excited about,”

she added.

Bakhshandehpour said she hopes to be a ballet dancer when she is older, and would also like to go to college to study language and history.

This year’s program will feature artist Daniella Zhou, who will debut in the principal role of the Sugar Plum Fairy and is the most recent protégé of Harley’s artistic team. Zhou danced with Westside Ballet for nine years until she was offered a spot with the pre-professional division at Miami City Ballet for its 2021-22 season.

“Daniella’s stellar ballet acumen is unquestionably ... a product of Westside’s exceptional training and artistic staff,” Harley said. “She ascended through the levels by her natural talent, combined with a strong work ethic, strength and sublime artistry. She brings incredible variety and distinctive traits to whatever she dances.”

“Her composure, grace, dedication and humility, both on and off stage, are quite rare. We are absolutely elated to have Daniella make her debut as the Sugar Plum Fairy in our 2021 return-to-the-stage ‘Nutcracker’ production, which promises to highlight Daniella’s gorgeous style in our two-weekend run.”

Principal guest artist Chasen Greenwood is slated to accompany Zhou as the Sugar Plum Fairy’s Cavalier. Greenwood has been featured in *Dancer Magazine* as “one to watch.”

His choreography also won him Best Young Choreographer at Regional America Southwest. Greenwood trained on a full scholarship with Pacific Northwest Ballet, Joffrey Ballet, Houston Ballet and Ballet Austin.

Westside Ballet is also welcoming back resident guest artists Evan Swenson, Mark Anthony Lopez and Sven Toorvad.

The production is said to showcase the talents of cast members from Westside School of Ballet’s Boys Division: Jesse Dean, Sawyer Jordan and Dylan Weinstein. The three Santa Monica residents will share the stage in the newly re-choreographed Russian dance, and display their Olympic-level athleticism with high jumps and perfected ballet form.

“The Russian dance has always been an audience favorite,” Harley said. “We are so proud of our advanced young male cast members, who train tirelessly ... and have mastered the exuberant Russian dance to a level usually reserved for one professional guest soloist.”

“The Nutcracker” will be performed for two weekends at The Broad Stage at Santa Monica College Performing Arts Center, located at 1310 11th Street.

Show times are Saturday, November 27, at 1 and 5 p.m.; Sunday, November 28, at 1 p.m.; Saturday, December 4, at 1 and 5 p.m.; and Sunday, December 5, at 1 p.m.

Westside Ballet will be implementing a mandatory COVID-19 vaccination and mask policy. Children under 12 years old will be able to attend the show with proof of a negative COVID-19 test.

The performance company will also release rehearsal footage previews on its social media channels on Tuesday, November 30.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit westsideballet.com or call 800-595-4849.



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A HAND-CRAFTED HOLIDAY

BY SARAH SHMERLING

Palisadian Valerie Williams and Michael Miller have crafted a hand-made, lifeguard tower-themed birdhouse ornament gift box.



PHOTOS BY RICH SCHMITT

Friends for more than two decades, Palisadian Valerie Williams and Michael Miller have spent the pandemic crafting hand-made lifeguard tower-themed birdhouses from her home in Marquez Knolls—and now, the pair has debuted their holiday specials.

When the *Palisadian-Post* first featured Williams and Miller, they were busy taking orders for their original lifeguard tower birdhouse, with plans to expand their offerings. Now, those plans have come to fruition.

But first, why hand-made birdhouses?

When Miller, a flight attendant, was temporarily furloughed as travel was paused due to the pandemic, he and Williams were sitting in her backyard in summer 2020 when he said an idea dawned on him: “I think I want to do birdhouses.”

The two then went down to the beach, took pictures of local lifeguard towers and sent them to Miller’s mother, who has a wood shop. She crafted a prototype and sent it to them in the mail.

“It’s been ever since then,” Miller shared during an interview earlier this year. “That’s how it all transpired.”

Not satisfied with the selection of accessories available for purchase to adorn the birdhouses, like surfboards, Williams and Miller hand make every part of the birdhouse, including the handrails, and then paint it.

They make the birdhouses in batches of about a dozen, which takes about five to seven days to complete, from cutting the lumber, sanding it, painting and adorning with the final molds. They have sold them to locals and beyond through sales



at the intersection of Palisades Drive and Sunset Boulevard to posts on Nextdoor.

“It was more of a hobby at first,” Miller said. “We just have such an overwhelming response from it that we were like, ‘We’ve got something on our hands here,’ which is great.”

Birdhouses have been sold to customers as far away as Canada and Sweden, as well as to people who are moving out of California and want to take a piece of the beach with them.

Since then, Williams said Miller has returned to working as a flight attendant full time, but their birdhouse sales continue to go really well.

“People love them,” she shared, adding that when they set up to sell their wares in the Village area with about a dozen or so birdhouses, they have people stop by to check them out, and maybe purchase two or three. “They just love them, the community, it makes me happy.”

When people drive by, even if they don’t stop, Williams said they will often smile and wave, as the birdhouses cheer them up and brighten their day.



Michael Miller and Valerie Williams

An advertisement for ATAM (Academy of Technology Art and Music) for the holidays. The background is decorated with various holiday ornaments and gift boxes. On the left, two children, a boy and a girl, are standing. The boy is wearing a dark jacket and the girl is wearing a red dress with a white cardigan. The text is arranged in a dynamic, angled layout. At the top left, it says "ATAM for the holidays" in a stylized font. Below that, it says "ADD ATAM TO YOUR CALENDAR!" in large, bold letters. Underneath, it lists "LESSONS - CAMPS - CLASSES" and "PARTIES - GAME NIGHTS" in yellow and orange. A calendar icon is shown with the text "DAY CAMPS ON ALL SCHOOL DAYS OFF" and "NEXT CAMP ON WINTER BREAK: DEC. 17, 20-23, 27-30". At the bottom, it says "LESSONS/CLASSES IN TECHNOLOGY, ART, & MUSIC FOR LEARNERS AGES 4 - ADULT". Contact information is provided at the bottom right: "CONTACT US FOR QUESTIONS OR INQUIRIES: ACADEMY OF TECHNOLOGY ART AND MUSIC atampalisades.com 310-573-0012 | techandmusicteacher@gmail.com 881 Alma Real Suite 117, Pacific Palisades, 90272". There is also a small ATAM logo in the bottom left corner and a red robot character in the bottom right corner.

Their second creation, a Cape Cod-style birdhouse, has also been well received by the community.

“That one has been very popular as well,” Williams said. “They just love the gold doorknobs and the chairs, and everything we’ve done.”

Williams and Miller have plans to keep those two designs in the rotation permanently. And even with Miller back to work, Williams shared that the two are gearing up for their holiday sale.

“He’s been working really hard,” Williams said, “and when he is home, he’s over here building birdhouses and molding surfboards.”

For the holidays, the pair has designed a gift box, which comes with a handmade lifeguard tower birdhouse ornament, as well as beach chair and starfish ornaments that they found pre-made to round out the box.

The birdhouse ornament is customizable with different accessories, like a wreath or Christmas tree. Williams explained that due to the intricacy, the smaller, ornament-sized birdhouse can take just as long to craft as the original.

“We are still all about quality control and we don’t do things sloppy,” Williams shared.

Another model of the full-size birdhouse that will make its debut after the first of the year is a post-modern house. They are hoping to start work on those in January—and are eyeing bringing them down to Palm Springs during Modernism Week.

“We’re just very happy with how the community responds to us,” Williams said. “Whether they buy a house or not, we love that people are really enjoying them.”

For more information or to place an order for a birdhouse, email birdbumhouse@gmail.com.



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Organized by The Bernard & Shirley Kinsey Foundation for Arts & Education and KBK Enterprises, Incorporated



Hughie Lee-Smith, *Untitled*, 1951, oil on masonite

An impressive survey of African American history and culture, this exhibition of the award-winning Kinsey Collection includes masterful paintings and sculpture, photographs, rare books, letters, manuscripts, and more, celebrating the achievements of African Americans from the 16th century through the years of slavery and Emancipation, to the Civil Rights Movement and up to the present day.

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THE RETURN OF TRAVEL

Terry Bahri of TerryB Luxury Travel offers insight into what the industry will look like in 2022.

BY TERRY BAHRI



PHOTOS COURTESY OF TERRY BAHRI

It's true the COVID-19 pandemic brought the travel business to a complete halt—however, the travel industry is resilient.

Although it's slow, clients are still eager to travel. They want to feel “normal” and in control of what they can and want to do. The more destinations open up, the more requests I get.

Festive season has been quite booked for more than six months. Summer and spring break in 2022 are already filling up.

Most popular destinations are places that are open, like Cabo San Lucas, which is very popular with West Coast clients. The Caribbean, which is hard to get to from Pacific Palisades, but becoming quite popular as well. Fiji is opening

up December 1, and it's an easy 10-hour overnight flight from LAX, so this will be quite popular.

Everyone thinks that after the pandemic rates are affordable, but it's the other way around. Everything is super expensive, flights are booked and availability is very limited. I believe this has to do with the limited options out there in terms of destinations that are open.

COVID-19-related rules and regulations have a lot to do with it too. It's becoming more expensive for hotels to run their business, and sadly, it's the consumer that ends up paying the price.

Most clients want to get back to normal already, and they flock toward destinations that are open, literally and figuratively.

Mexico, especially Cabo, is still a very popular destination from Los Angeles. It's an easy couple of hours flight and great for around three or four nights. Florida also is a great option.

As soon as France opened up, I had clients in Paris and South of France. I also had few clients venture into South Africa but many are staying local around the USA.

Now that the U.S. announced it was opening up for incoming travelers, I have clients coming in for the holidays from places like Singapore and London.

Though 2021 was a bit slow, we had some movement. I am very confident that 2022 will take off quite well.

In order to encourage clients to travel, I have been traveling since travel was

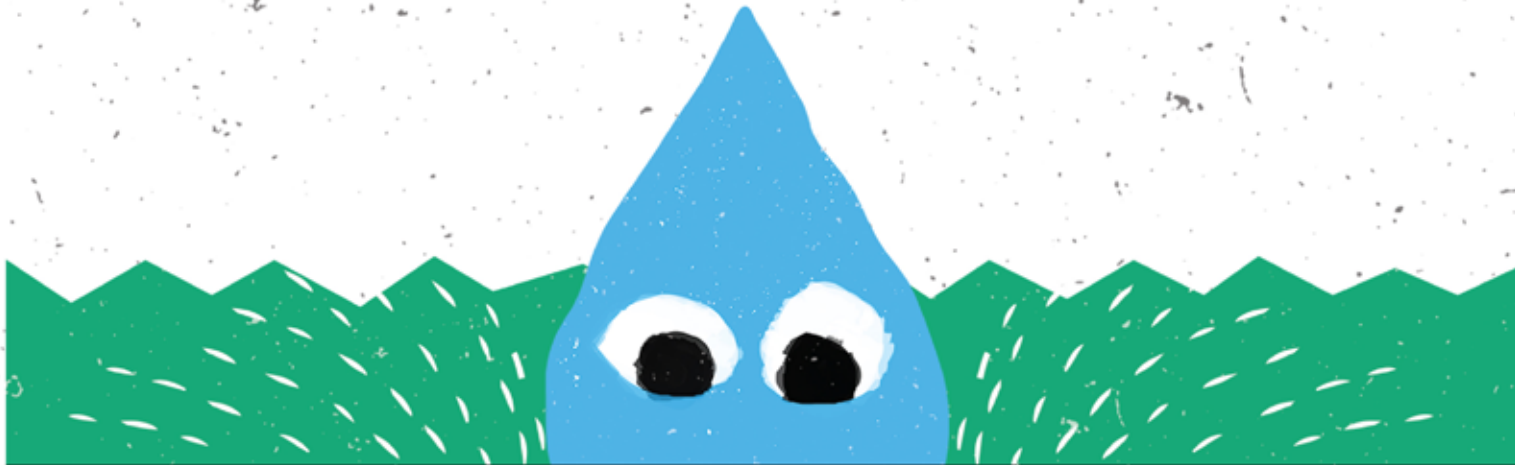
allowed back around last March or so. I have been to Miami around 10 times doing hotel site inspections, Washington, D.C., Arizona and others.

I've been to South Africa, Beirut (Yes! Beirut.) and just got back from the Maldives where I visited around nine hotels. I stopped along the way in Spain for a conference, and will be going to France and Switzerland this coming December for a conference and checking hotels.

When I travel, I am always posting on social media as a form of encouragement, letting people know that it's OK to travel and it is safe.

To reach Bahri, visit terrybluxury-travel.com, email terry@terrybluxury-travel.com or call 310-890-7707.

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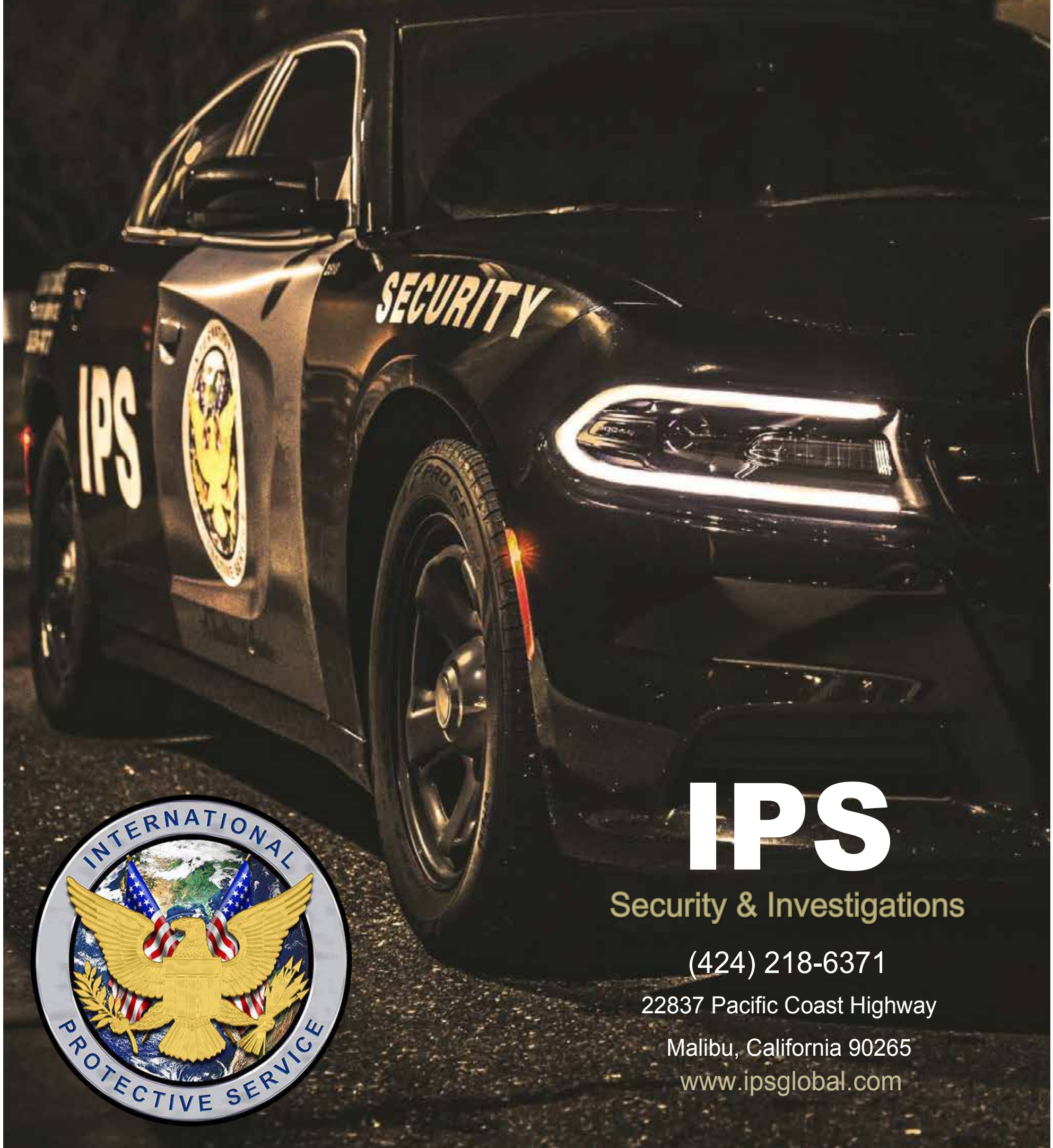


	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Addresses End in ODD							
Addresses End in EVEN							

WATER YOUR LAWN 3 DAYS A WEEK.
8 MINUTES PER STATION, BEFORE 9 AM OR AFTER 4 PM

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