

Griffith Park News & Updates

Hello from Park Services Office in Griffith Park

Updates from Stefanie Smith, Acting Superintendent of Griffith Region

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Updates from Acting Superintendent, Stefanie Smith	1-3
Flashback	4

- HAPPY TRAILS! Gregorio Gomez Sr.** is retiring this month after 32 years with Recreation and Parks. **Mr. Gomez** is responsible for the design and construction of countless projects throughout the park. He is a skilled craftsman and his many talents include masonry, irrigation, hydro mulching, building of rock walls, posting trail park signs, pot hole and



Photo: T. LaBonge

concrete repair, faux bois railing, planters and tree planting, maintenance, and foundation work. There is nothing he cannot do and is always happy to help. He is the most wonderful and beautiful person and is loved dearly by all staff and co-workers. We will miss him so much and wish him the best in his retirement.

- The Griffith Park Advisory Board's next meeting is scheduled for April 22, 2021 at 6:30 pm via Zoom. The agenda can be found on the [Griffith Park webpage](#) or the Advisory Board's Facebook page 72 hours prior to a scheduled meeting.

This month **GPAB** will welcome Councilmember **Nithya Raman**. We will also discuss the LA RIVER MASTER PLAN as it pertains to Griffith Park.

LA RIVER INFO:

The deadline for comment on the LA River Plan has been extended to May 13!

[An editorial from the LA Times about the possible effects of the plan on the South LA community](#)

*"In nature, nothing is perfect and everything is perfect. Trees can be contorted, bent in weird ways, and they're still beautiful."
- Alice Walker*

- Are you interested in serving on the **Griffith Park Advisory Board**? We would like to meet you! For information on this service opportunity or to receive an application please contact send an email to tracy.james@lacity.org
- **Park Closures:** Griffith Observatory, LA DOT DASH to OBS, Bronson Caves, Parkline Shuttle.
- **Now open!** : The Autry Museum! Travel Town! LA Zoo!
- **Travel Town** will be open weekends only (Saturday and Sunday) starting Saturday, April 17th between the hours of 10:00 am and 5:00 pm. Beginning May 10th, Travel Town will be open 6 days a week, closed Wednesday's. At this time people are not allowed to book event reservations for the party train cars or picnic areas. A staff member will be posted near the front entrance reminding patrons to wear a face covering while visiting Travel Town.

• **From FOTO to Foundation: New name, Same Mission**

Friends of the Observatory (FOTO) is the exclusive non-profit partner that has supported Griffith Observatory's programs, facilities, and exhibits since 1978. As we rise to meet the future, we have changed our name from Friends of the Observatory to Griffith Observatory Foundation. Inspired by the iconography of Griffith Observatory's three domes, our new logo and our new name serve to connect us more fully to the institution we serve. We have also built a new combined website with the Observatory. Our shared online home further aligns us to tell better the story of our work and to welcome more people to join us in our legacy of service. [The site features higher resolution graphics and photography, as well as more intuitive navigation.](#) While these are major changes, the spirit and mission of the organization remains the same. Over the years, we have accomplished monumental feats like the \$93 million renovation and expansion, massive ongoing initiatives like the tens of thousands students served annually by the [School Program \(now serving students online\)](#), productions of new Samuel Oschin Planetarium shows, and the fulfillment of any request to update, upgrade, and preserve Griffith Observatory. To stay current on Observatory and astronomy news, [subscribe to Look Up!](#) Griffith Observatory Foundation's free e-newsletter.

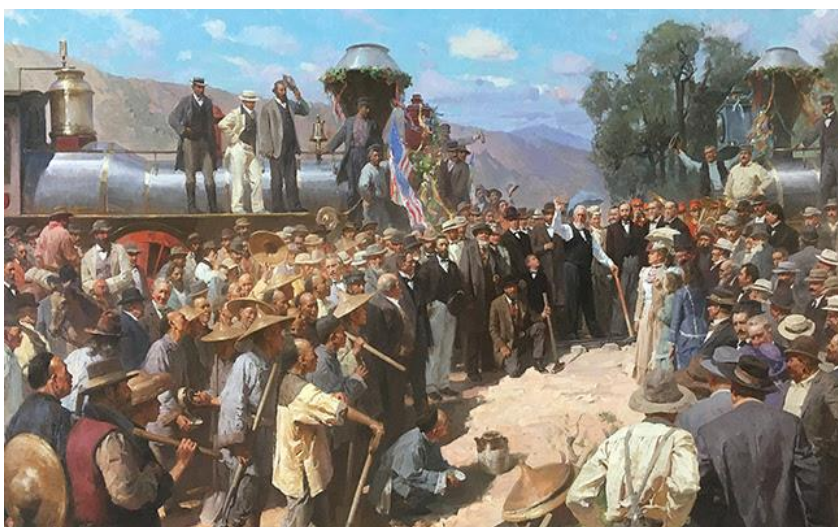
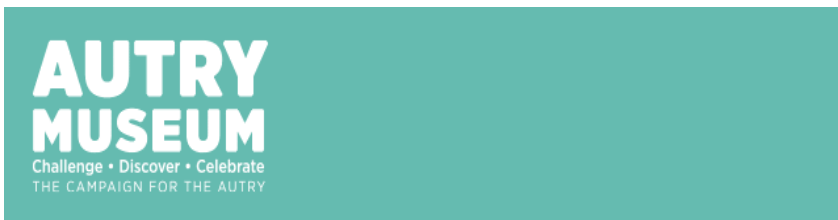
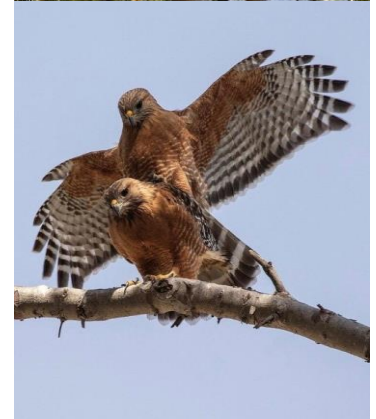


- **[LFIA Campaigns to Restore Historic Tree Canopy](#)** Thank you Los Feliz Improvement Association! When community gets involved, good things happen!
- **'Lock it, Hide it, Keep it!'** There is an uptick in vehicle break-ins in the park. Do not leave anything of value in your car.
- **Shakespeare Stage**, the Recreation and Parks Board of Commissioners approved the final design plans for the permanent stage in the Old Zoo area. Electrical work will begin in the coming weeks and we will keep you informed of progress along the way.
- **The incredible restoration of the faux bois railing has been completed in the lower portion of Fern Dell. What a great project by the Griffith J. Griffith Charitable Trust!**



Why did the chicken cross Boy Scout Rd?

- Eric Smith is a resident in Hollywoodland and his photography is wonderful. Check out his photos [here](#) to see Griffith Park wildlife pics and more!
- With a rich history dating back over 55 years, the City of Los Angeles Park Rangers Division has a proud legacy built on diversity, leadership, and inclusion. In this article, shared by the **Friends of Griffith Park**, LAAPOA is proud to highlight Lucia Ruta and Doc Jefferson, two trailblazers who helped break down barriers for female minority peace officers throughout the *Park Ranger Division*. Click [here](#) for a great article by the awesome Marian Dodge, board member, [Friends of Griffith Park](#) on our Park Ranger.



Hi Friends,
 Spring greetings from the Autry's Education department. I hope you and your loved ones are healthy and safe. As the weather warms up, the outlook is bright as COVID-19 cases are decreasing, some schools are beginning to reopen, and families and friends are reuniting. You may have heard that the Autry has reopened to the public at reduced capacity (learn about visitor protocols [here](#)). We are not quite ready to welcome school tours yet, but we would love to see you and your family if and when you feel comfortable doing so. In the meantime, we will continue to provide distance learning programs for you and your students. [See here for our exciting new offerings!](#)

Be well,
 Sarah S. Wilson
 Director of Education

Stefanie Smith, Acting Superintendent
stefanie.smith@lacity.org

Sean Hinton, Park Services Supervisor
sean.hinton@lacity.org

Tracy James, all general inquiries, add/remove name from newsletter
tracy.james@lacity.org

Park Rangers
(323) 644-6661

FLASHBACK!

Charlie Turner at the top of Mt. Hollywood (now Tom LaBonge Panorama)



Photo courtesy of Brigid LaBonge

No smoking in the Park! Fines up to \$1,000.00



APR 23, 2021
Presented by Cinespia
ALIEN DRIVE-IN

APR 24, 2021
Presented by Cinespia
THE PARENT TRAP DRIVE-IN

THE GREEK THEATRE

time's a'wasting!

The Great FoGP Tee-shirt Design Challenge

All designs must be received by EARTH DAY
Thursday, April 22nd
in order to be considered!