



2 Football stadium talk, a big lease, and other happenings Around Town.

8 Judge approves first part of the Skid Row drug dealer injunction.

INSIDE



Smells like holiday spirit.
2



The new look of 7+Fig.
5



Pick football games, win prizes.
6



Flip you lid at a new hat shop.
9



Good happenings at Good Samaritan.
12



Reviewing L.A. Opera's Rigoletto.
18

19 CALENDAR LISTINGS

21 MAP

22 CLASSIFIEDS

A Bigger and Better Cornfield Park

State Parks Department to Unveil \$18 Million Plan for 32-Acre Attraction



California State Parks Superintendent Sean Woods with two rangers at the Los Angeles State Historic Park. This week, the department will unveil plans for an \$18 million project that will create numerous new facilities and attractions.

photo by Gary Leonard

BY RICHARD GUZMÁN
CITY EDITOR

California State Parks Superintendent Sean Woods could hardly contain his excitement last week as he drove around the Los Angeles State Historic Park in his green, golf cart-like vehicle.

With one hand extended outward and the other on the steering wheel, he eagerly envisioned the future of the site.

"We'll have the welcome pavilion here. We'll have people on hand to hand out maps and lead historic tours of the park," he enthused. "We're creating a pavilion here, a promenade which will

be a place where we can have vendors pull in for a farmer's market.

"We're also creating a citrus promenade grove; it's going to pay homage to the agricultural past prior to rail activity. You can imagine walking through a citrus promenade during the blooming see Park, page 10

For Homeless Women, a New Home

Downtown Women's Center's \$26 Million Facility Opens This Week

BY RYAN VAILLANCOURT
STAFF WRITER

During her years on the streets of Skid Row, Fannie Mayfield saw it all.

One night Mayfield saw a man set on fire just steps from where she had set up her tent. She watched as people were literally dumped on the sidewalk, recently discharged from a hospital or somewhere else.

Mayfield, 57, was addicted to drugs and alcohol. The addiction sunk her into desperation, leading her to occasionally eat out of trashcans to survive.

Through it all, Mayfield had one respite. During the day, she would

amble into the Downtown Women's Center, a facility that feeds, aids and houses homeless women.

Last week, Mayfield walked into the Downtown Women's Center again, but this time she stepped into the organization's new home at 434 S. San Pedro St. The 33-year-old industrial structure has been converted into a facility with 71 permanent supportive housing units and several offices and rooms to support the center's suite of social services.

The \$26 million project is more than twice the size of the DWC's longtime Los Angeles Street location. When it opens on Friday, Dec. 10, see DWC, page 7



Fannie Mayfield in one of the 71 apartments in the Downtown Women's Center, which celebrates its grand opening on Dec. 10. Mayfield commutes daily from her home in South L.A. to receive DWC services.

photo by Gary Leonard

The Mall Gets a Makeover

Brookfield Properties Outlines \$40 Million Renovation of 7+Fig

BY RICHARD GUZMÁN
CITY EDITOR

About a month after officially announcing that Target is coming to Downtown Los Angeles, the owner of the 7+Fig mall last week detailed other elements of a \$40 million renovation for the outdoor shopping center.

Bert Dezzutti, senior vice president of mall owner Brookfield Office Properties' Southern California region, said the renovation of the 330,000-square-foot attraction is set to start in the first quarter of 2011. He said it will be completed by fall 2012, when Target is scheduled to open.

Although plans for a renovation were long in the works, the specifics of the upgrade were tied to the anchor tenant. Now that the deal has been signed by the Minneapolis-based retailer, Dezzutti said the renovation will transform the mall into a clean, modern and open space.

The dated look of mall will be upgraded by replacing the current circular layout of stairways, zigzagging escalators and side elevators with a grand stairway that leads shoppers directly into the center from Figueroa Street. The stairway will descend to the middle floor of the three-level complex, where the entrance to Target will be located.

A large metal frame that currently hovers above the center will be replaced by a glass canopy, while the twin columns in front of the

mall will be increased in height and sheathed in glass. The columns and the canopy will be enhanced with lighting, Dezzutti said.

"It's a much more modern looking and inviting retail center," Dezzutti said.

The project is being designed by Gensler Los Angeles, the architecture firm behind the Convention Center hotel, Club Nokia at L.A. Live and numerous other projects. James Kelly, the project architect, said the goal is to give the mall a contemporary look.

Kelly said the grand stairway will be the most significant architectural feature of the project and will improve pedestrian circulation throughout the shopping center.

"You won't have to circle into the center anymore and move all around to find your way down," he said. "It'll take you down to the middle level where Target is located and from there you'll have a very clear route to continue into the lower level."

The canopy will be the visual signature of the renovated mall, he said. He added that designs call for Target to be the prominent center of the space.

"It's going to have really great visibility from Figueroa. So as you come down that grand stair you'll look across and the Target entrance will be right there," he said.

Kelly said a lot of pedestrian traffic is expected from the Downtown population, so major changes are not planned for the 7+Fig see 7+FIG, page 11



rendering courtesy of Brookfield Office Properties

The \$40 million renovation of the 7+Fig shopping center will replace the metal frame over the center of the development with a glass canopy. Work will begin in early 2011.



rendering courtesy of Brookfield Office Properties

A grand staircase will lead shoppers directly to Target as part of the upgrades.