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Los Angeles Independent Newspapers • Serving Mid-Wilshire, Miracle Mile, Hancock Park, Lavender, Fairfax and Beverly Center

Gym joins Museum Row

By David Lipin

Those who work or live along the Miracle Mile have worked at themselves now that L.A. Fitness has established a location along a boulevard previously known only as Museum Row.

"In L.A., it's a matter of where you can find a good lease and parking. Parking is the key," says L.A. Fitness operations manager Joe Coco. "L.A.'s the most body-conscious place in the world."

Coco says L.A. Fitness signed a 15-year lease and spent upwards of \$1 million to provide ample parking in addition to its traditional fitness fare for its local clientele, which is currently about 1,200 members.

L.A. Fitness also built its 25th club location within the Miralife club building, 9950 Wilshire Blvd., to accommodate a new generation of fitness enthusiasts who appear to be young, upwardly mobile professionals who work within the building or in other nearby offices.

The Miracle Mile of today con-



Photo by Dave Weckert

L.A. Fitness trainer Alison Formell offers muscle-building pointers to operators manager Joe Coco and fitness coordinator John Parney.

trains sharply with the Miracle Mile of days past, where residents were predominantly aspiring artists, writers, actors and students.

It appears that their aspirations came true because droves of "body-conscious" actors, directors and entertainers, people stream through the club in the morning before work and during lunch breaks, says Coco.

The Courtyard Club, \$750

Neighborhood watch

Repair schedule moved up

Los Angeles schools will get air conditioning eight months ahead of schedule and other repairs will be done quickly thanks to fruitful meetings in Sacramento, Board of Education President Jeff Horton thanked Day Higuchi, United Teachers Los Angeles president, for arranging the sessions with members of the governor's Cabinet and Assembly Majority Leader Antonio Villaraigosa. The delegation members, which included Superintendent Jill Thompson, Superintendent-designate Kristen Zaccarias and school board members, expressed resistance when they met with the state officials, Horton said government officials responded by offering to expedite the process for the bond projects. He added that Villaraigosa will bring "urgency legislation" to raise from \$200,000 to \$100,000 the cost of structural alterations before the state is required to sign off and allow local school boards to prequalify contractors quarterly, rather than by project, with certification effective for a year. General Facilities Manager Beth Lougheed said the bills could be "passed and signed as early as June." She said that will cut by eight months the time it takes to get air conditioning into schools. When the architectural designs are completed, which takes three to four months, plans can be implemented, she said. She added that air-conditioning work would begin on 140 schools by this summer.



MTA grant

The city of West Hollywood has been selected to receive a \$1.126-million grant from the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to manage a regional project that will improve traffic flow along 13 miles of roadway, running north and south from West Hollywood to Lakota Heights. West Hollywood will supervise the design and construction of traffic improvements at the northern and southern ends of the corridor. The improvements will be implemented through the coordinated efforts of the cities of West Hollywood, Los Angeles, Beverly Hills and Culver City. West Hollywood will receive the MTA grant over the course of fiscal years 1999-2000 and 2000-2001. Construction work, expected to begin in 2000, will include installing vehicle detectors in the roadway, mounting closed-circuit television cameras along traffic signals and connecting traffic signals for the sake of synchronization. The Westside North-South Transportation Corridor is composed of La Cienega Boulevard, between Santa Monica Boulevard and Shafter Avenue, Robertson Boulevard between Santa Monica Boulevard and the Santa Monica Freeway, San Vicente Boulevard between

See "CityBeat" on next page of second section