CANDIDATES *from page 12*

evidence-based responses to … our broader housing and homelessness crisis."

Raman also outlined a plan to keep more people from falling into homelessness, including providing lawyers to tenants facing evictions, advocating for a year-long rent freeze, like the one implemented by Culver City in August 2019, and relaxing zoning codes for affordable housing—such as allowing developers to build smaller units with shared bathrooms and kitchens.

Meanwhile, incumbent David Ryu said he is proud of the progress he says he has made on the issue.

"I've pushed the envelope in my district," he said, with three completed shelters and four underway.

Before running for office in 2015, Ryu worked for the Kedren Community Health Center, the second largest mental health provider in Los Angeles County and then served as the social services deputy for Los Angeles County Supervisor Yvonne Braithwaite-Burke.

Like his challengers, Ryu is frustrated by the lack of results regarding homelessness.

"The city is not doing enough," he said. "Every councilmember is working on their own version of addressing the homelessness issue. There are too many cooks in the kitchen."

As such, he has called for what he calls a "FEMA-like" response to the crisis, calling on the city council to relinquish its power to the mayor to get shelters built more quickly. Doing so could cut out community debates on where shelters are built—with some communities staying they don't want them in their neighborhoods.

"This is only for homeless housing at this time of crisis," he said.

According to Ryu, he has a "three-pronged" approach to the crisis: build more shelters and housing; change how California's Ellis Act is enforced in Los Angeles; protect rent stabilized housing from destruction and to create more incentives for developers to create more middle-incoming housing.

He also has advocated for increases to the California's Renter's Tax Credit. Currently renters earning less than $37,000 a year only receive a break on their taxes of $60 for individuals or $120 for families.

Finally, along with the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, Ryu is lobbying the state to allow first responders the ability to medically intervene for homeless persons facing harm or even death on the streets or for those that are severely mentally ill.

"I see crisis happening in the city," he said. "The old way of doing things does not work."

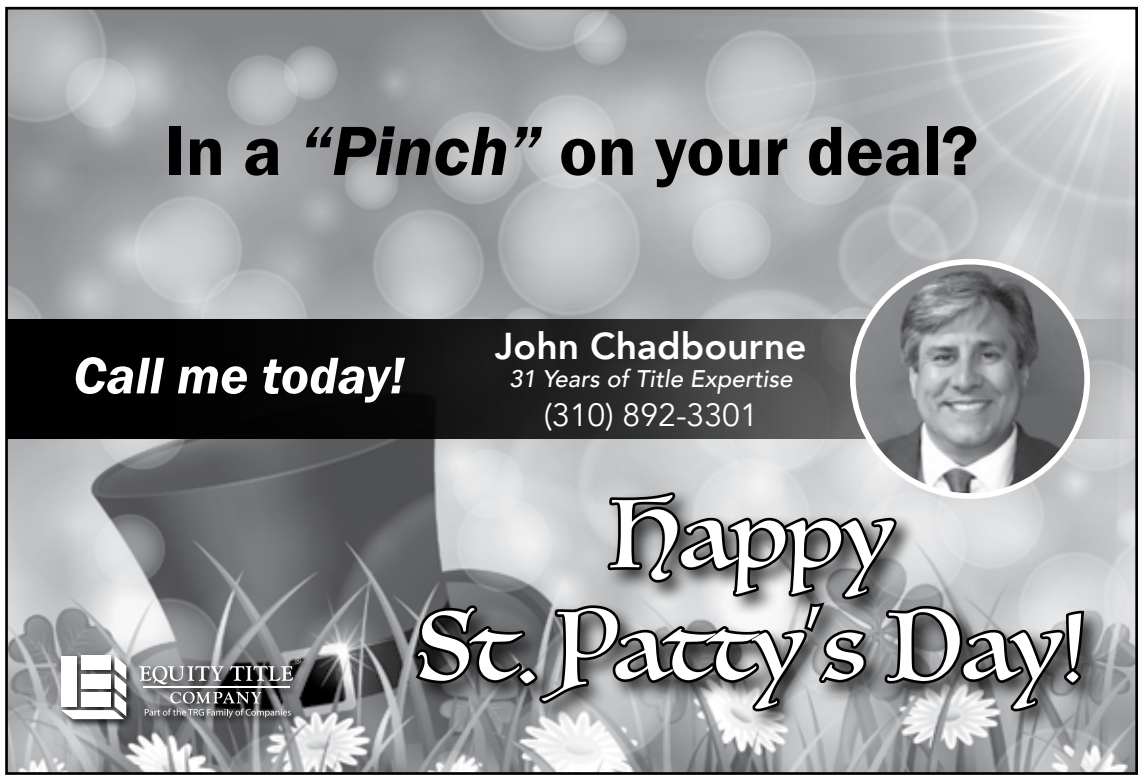
Iconic L.A. Architecture Talk

LOS FELIZ—Author Antonio Gonzalez will discuss his new book, *Architects Who Built Southern California*, at the Architecture&Beyond Lecture Series Thursday, March 19, from 6:45 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. at the Los Feliz Library, 1874 Hillhurst Ave. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Gonzalez will speak on 10 architects or architectural firms behind some of the Southland's most acclaimed buildings, including: Harrison Albright, John Austin, Claud Beelman, Elmer Grey, Hudson & Munsell, A. C. Martin, Meyer & Holler, Julia Morgan, Morgan Walls & Clements and Alfred F. Rosenheim.

Skylight Books will be on hand for the selling and signing of Gonzalez's book.

For more information, call the Los Feliz Branch Library at (323) 913-4710.



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