

# Beverly Hills Weekly

ALSO ON THE WEB  
[www.bhweekly.com](http://www.bhweekly.com)

SERVING BEVERLY HILLS • BEVERLYWOOD • LOS ANGELES

Issue 327 • January 5 - January 11, 2006

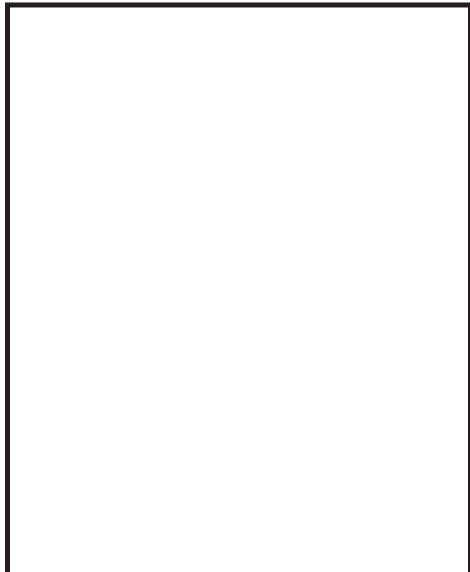
## WAR OVER THE OVERLAY ZONE

Why some Beverly Hills locals are fighting the implementation of the 11-digit phone number change enacted this year.

## GENERAL PLAN GETS MORE SPECIFIC

Updated information illustrating Beverly Hills' existing conditions, helping to formulate policies and programs is now available to the public.

# letters & email



## “Calling All Traffic Experts”

Item #1: With reference the diagonal crossroads in the business section of Beverly Hills, I assume the with Traffic Department, the Traffic Commission and all other traffic experts anyone could dig up strongly recommended adopting diagonal crosswalks at the intersections of Rodeo, Beverly and Canon Drives between Wilshire and Santa Monica Boulevards. I agree they are beneficial for the three or four hours on very busy business days when there is a lot of foot traffic.

I am writing this because most of the time they slow down the north/south auto traffic unnecessarily-- 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Item #2: When you exit the alley known as Peck Alley, that runs from 9651 Wilshire Boulevard going north onto Brighton Way you have no view of the oncoming racing traffic-- a traffic mirror is desperately needed on the side of the building adjacent to the alley that you are exiting.

*Herbert L. Wallerstein  
Beverly Hills*

## WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?

You can write us at:  
140 South Beverly Drive #201  
Beverly Hills, CA 90212

You can fax us at:  
310.887.0789 fax

email us at:  
editor@bhweekly.com



## SNAPSHOT



"SINGING IN THE RAIN"  
EL CAMINO DRIVE

## Choose to explore the educational Opportunities at Beverly Hills Adult School

### COMPUTERS

PC & Mac, Beginner Workshop, Internet, QuickBooks, Word, Excel, Photoshop 8.0

### PHOTOGRAPHY

Self Expression and the Creative Eye

### FINE and APPLIED ARTS

Drawing, Painting, Ceramics & Sculpture, Calligraphy, Stained Glass

### FOREIGN LANGUAGES

French, Italian, Spanish, Yiddish

### EXERCISE & FITNESS

Weight Training, Aqua Aerobics, Yoga, Tai Chi Chuang

### SPECIAL INTEREST CLASSES

Private Pilot Ground School, Great Skin, Accent Reduction

### COOKING

Italian, Indian, Basic Cooking

### PERSONAL and PERFORMING ARTS

Blockbuster Ideas for Writing, On-Camera Commercial Workshop

### LEARNING ENGLISH (ESL)

Free Day & Evening Classes

### ONE-DAY SEMINARS

Jewelry Making, Cooking, Feng Shui, Negotiation

### ENROLL NOW

CLASSES BEGIN JANUARY 9, 2006

Check our website for complete class listings.  
<http://bhas.bhusd.org/>

## Beverly Hills Weekly

Issue 327 • January 5 - January 11, 2006  
Beverly Hills Weekly Inc.

Founded: October 7, 1999  
Published Thursdays

Delivered in Beverly Hills, Beverlywood, Los Angeles

ISSN#1528-851X

[www.bhweekly.com](http://www.bhweekly.com)

**Publisher & CEO**  
Josh E. Gross

**Managing Editor**  
Andrea Simpson

**Editorial Assistant**  
Jennifer Kamm

**Sports Editor**  
Steven Herbert

**Consumer Affairs Editor**  
Irv Rudman

**Photographer**  
Judy Okun

**Contributors**  
Rudy Cole  
Scott Huver  
Gerald Lunn

**General Manager**  
Simon Estandi

**Assistant General Manager**  
Ardy Hakhmian

**Advertising Representatives**  
Michelle Yang  
Natasha Saadat  
Melody Shadsirat  
Melody Shakib

**Legal Advertising**  
Michael Saghian  
Bobby Refoua  
Morris Ghermezi

140 South Beverly Drive #201  
Beverly Hills, CA 90212  
310.887.0788 phone  
310.887.0789 fax  
CNPA Member

editor@bhweekly.com  
All staff can be reached at:  
first name @bhweekly.com  
Unsolicited materials will not be returned.  
©2006 Beverly Hills Weekly Inc.

**1 year  
subscriptions  
are available.**  
Sent via US Mail  
\$75 payable in  
advance

Adjudicated as a  
newspaper of general  
circulation for the County  
of Los Angeles. Case #  
BS065841 of the Los  
Angeles Superior Court,  
on November 30, 2000.



# city & schools

## New Driving Laws Impact New Drivers In The New Year

Two new laws are passed to promote safer driving amongst first-year drivers.

By Jennifer Kamm

As part of the Provisional Licensing Program, the California Department of Motor Vehicles issued two new laws this year that affect first-year drivers under the age of 18, those of which the BHPD hopes will reduce the amount of accidents in and around the city.

The law states that all provisional licensees (first year drivers) cannot carry passengers under the age of 20 in their car unless they are accompanied by a licensed parent/guardian, certified instructor or licensed driver over the age of 25, during the first year of receiving a license. The new law also prohibits provisional licensees from driving between the hours of 11 p.m. and 5 a.m.

Prior to Jan. 2006, provisional licensees had to wait only six months before being permitted to carry passengers and were not allowed to drive between the hours of midnight and 5 a.m.

"I know the CHP [California Highway Patrol] was very big in supporting the change because of the sheer number of accidents occurring," BHPD Lt. Mitch McCann said.

By prohibiting new drivers from operating a vehicle after 11 p.m., McCann believes that the number of fatalities will decrease.

"There will be fewer kids driving at later hours.

The changes that have been made are going to save lives," McCann said.

While drivers will not be pulled over for looking young, McCann says if someone is pulled over for another reason and is found in violation of the provisional laws, then proper action will be taken.

"We're not going to let illegal activity continue," McCann said. "We'll make them park the vehicle and have someone come pick them up."

Beverly High has joined forces with the Beverly Hills Police Department to ensure that students follow the new provisional laws. Although the school does not have the authority to enforce state driving laws, according to Beverly High Principal Dan Stepenosky, "We do work closely with our School Resource Officers and assist them as they enforce driving codes and laws."

In addition to notifying officials and parents if students break any laws, Stepenosky says, "If our students have created an unsafe situation or also broken our rules and policies, we do have progressive steps or consequences which include suspension and/or removal of the parking permit."

While altering the provisional driving program may create a safer driving environment for first-year drivers, it may also lead to increased parking

issues by preventing new drivers from carpooling. At Beverly High there is currently not enough parking for all of the attending students, according to Stepenosky, because of the construction of the Science & Technology Center on what was formerly parking lot A.

School parking permits cost \$195 a year.

"We can accommodate our seniors and juniors reasonably well, but as our sophomores get their drivers permits, we [will] run out of spaces," Stepenosky said.

Stepenosky added that school officials encourage students to walk, bike or have their parents carpool.

If students are seen getting into a car together on campus, Stepenosky maintains that security officers will ask students for identification to verify that they have had their license for more than one year.

Presently, there is no law in Southern California regarding the use of cellular phones while operating a vehicle. By prohibiting carpooling among provisional licensed drivers, many may wonder if this will lead to increased cell-phone usage, and in turn, more accidents.

McCann says he thinks that using cell phones will not affect new drivers, however, believes that not having passengers in the car will reduce the number of accidents because it will reduce the number of distractions.

According to McCann, traffic supervisors remember many serious collisions that have occurred over the last few years where provisional drivers have been responsible. One accident, in particular, occurred on Valentine's Day about two years ago on Sunset Boulevard involving Beverly High student Elana Rosenberg, who was left in a coma and is now recovering.

To educate new drivers about driving safety and current laws, every year Beverly High conducts a school-wide assembly with the BHPD.

"To promote better understanding within our community of Beverly Hills' finances, sources of revenue and distribution of expenses."

-- *Eliot Finkel,*  
*Beverly Hills City Treasurer*

"The year 2005 was a very tumultuous year for education in California generally and in Beverly Hills specifically. The battle over the governor's initiatives in the special election last November generated much concern and frustration among so many educators throughout the state. The levels of anxiety were further heightened by the new education policies being introduced by the district. I resolve to remain focused on the positive reasons behind my actions rather than becoming overwhelmed by feelings of negativity and frustration. Similarly, I resolve to be positive and supportive of sound educational policies that will clearly work toward improving the learning environment for our students in the district."

— *Mark Frenn,*  
*Beverly Vista eighth grade teacher*

"Not let a day go by without telling family and friends how much I appreciate them."

-- *Ronit Stone,*  
*Incoming El Rodeo PTA President*

"My resolution for this year is to keep in touch better with old friends. Of course, that has been my resolution for the last two years, and I haven't done a good job of keeping it. Maybe if you publish this in the newspaper, it will motivate me to do a better job of keeping the resolution. (In fact, if that works, I may ask you to publish my resolution next year as well.)"

-- *Larry Wiener,*  
*Beverly Hills City Attorney*

### WHAT ARE YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS?

"I typically have the same resolution every year which is to make the world a better place for young people. But on a personal note, I just finished my doctorate, so it is not to go to college this year. It's now Dr. Hubbard. And another resolution is to get more exercise."

-- *Jeff Hubbard,*  
*BHUSD Superintendent*

"I have the standard resolution like everyone - to get in better shape and lose a few pounds. I also have a resolution to become a better person this year through regular reading of the Bible and praying."

-- *Lt. Mitch McCann,*  
*BHPD Public Information Officer*

"I eat a lot and sometimes I keep eating because I don't feel full. So my New Year's resolution is to eat healthier and learn my eating limit. I also plan on hitting the gym more often... not to lose weight, but to build muscle and tone up."

-- *Jackie Perez,*  
*Administration Clerk*

"Work less, play more, savor every moment."

-- *Dr. Connie Brien,*  
*Solicitations Advisory Commission*  
*Vice Chairperson*

"My New Year's resolution is to 'listen.' Listening as opposed to just hearing. Listening is the foundation of communication; and communicating our thoughts, feelings and emotions is the foundation of all relationships. Once we master the ability to listen we have mastered the art of communication. I hope to extend this resolution to further my relationship with my family, friends and colleagues. This year I'll be all ears!"

-- *Maggie Soleimani,*  
*Beverly Hills resident*

"To try to be a more tolerant and less stressful when driving in L.A., and to get a complete physical examination once a year. I also have one annual resolution, or I should say annual commitment that never changes, that is to give my wife and each of my three children a hug and kiss and tell them I love them every day."

-- *Bruce Horowitz,*  
*BHUSD Citizen's Oversight Committee member*

"I usually don't make New Year's resolutions because I tend not to keep them, however, this year I'm going to be optimistic and vow to eat healthier-- fruits, veggies, chicken and limited junk food. Gone are the days of my lunching on Cheetos and Dr. Pepper!"

-- *Pat Agnitch,*  
*Recreation and Parks Deputy Director*

# La Valencia

Modern & Estate Jewelry

## MOST COMPETITIVE PRICES

### TOP CASH

FOR YOUR  
• DIAMONDS •  
• WATCHES •  
• GOLD •

### BUY SELL REDESIGN

Loose Diamonds  
Any Size & Shape

With **GIA** Certificates



La Valencia Jewelry  
256 North Beverly Dr., Beverly Hills  
Tel. 310-859-7915

Open 7 days a week 10 am - 5 pm

# where are they now?



## Brenda Colfer

El Rodeo Fourth Grade Teacher, 1966-2000  
Manhattan Beach, CA

### How did you get to Beverly Hills?

I went to Purdue University and Long Beach Unified School District interviewed me out there at Purdue and I got a job. And of course I'm 22-years-old when I graduated in 1961 and you know, you're, "Oh boy, California, okay!" So I went up to Long Beach and taught there for four years, then I decided I needed to further my education and do something else, so I got a Master's degree at UCLA in Education and then I applied at various school districts. Los Angeles wouldn't have me because I didn't get a high enough score on their test of California history. So then you wonder why the LAUSD is in a bad situation, and I had no trouble getting hired by Beverly Hills. And that's how I got to Beverly Hills.

### Was fourth grade your grade of choice?

Well, actually yes. And I taught fourth grade in Long Beach and that's the grade I've always taught in Beverly Hills.

### Compare Long Beach to Beverly Hills?

At the beginning when I started teaching in Beverly Hills it was terrific because you had low class sizes; you [taught] like 20 to 22 kids in a class and that was fantastic. It was a real family type feeling where everybody in the district knew each other and the administration really cared about you, or at least you felt that way. And they [taught] foreign language in the fourth grade, and they had P.E. teachers, where in Long Beach you taught your own P.E. and you had about 37 kids in a classroom. Coming to Beverly Hills at that time was a big change and I felt a real



step up.

### What was the impetus for you to move districts?

Smaller district and I just was ready for a change. Originally when I got my Master's degree I

was planning to go back to Long Beach. But the single life got pretty stale after a while and I thought, "There's gotta be better things than this." So when you're younger, you're ready to change things whenever you feel like you need to.

### Tell us about El Rodeo in the 1960s.

It was just a close knit faculty and it seemed like you decided on a lot of stuff at the school level. Frank Scott was the principal at the time and he was really great. You were left to do things the way you wanted to in your own room, so you had a lot of individualism, you could be creative, you could teach the way you wanted to teach and really enjoy the children. You had time to read to them, you had time to do all these things that eventually by the year 2000, I said, "Wait a minute, I'm not teaching anymore." By that time, screws tightened constantly because you are teaching for test scores. As long as you're teaching for test scores, you're going by the book, everyone has got to do the same thing. And when I got to the point where I said, "God, I can't even find time to read to the children anymore," I thought, "I think I'm ready to go." I see a lot of wonderful, confident, skillful teachers coming in and it's time to pass the baton.

### Do you think the kids are still learning in the same way?

Another plus when I first came in was the children seemed to be so studious. There was so little discipline problems. The kids just really took their work seriously and you could just teach like you thought you'd never be able to teach. I do remember thinking what little policing I had to do and it made teaching very satisfying. And then my personal opinion is that as television invaded the household and more and more kids just watched TV a lot, their attention span got to the point where if you weren't on live action camera and performing in front of your class all the time to keep their attention, that you couldn't do it. You had to be on a stage, constantly thinking up faster and quicker ways to get their attention, which is a good thing too, but it's just that when I started teaching in Beverly Hills the kids just seemed to take teaching more seriously and you had great support from the parents which I've always had. I've always thought that the parents were just terrific. And the teachers were wonderful. Teachers are extremely conscientious, and if you're in that profession, you're in it because you want to be most of the time. Those that don't want to be usually leave soon after because they can't take it. So my hat's off to all

teachers. They really devote an extraordinary amount of their life to what they're doing.

We just recently spoke with former El Rodeo teacher Jim Quider [issue #318] and he described the teaching staff at that time as: "We're talking about a top notch faculty and first rate community as far as education was concerned and giving their kids the best things they needed." What is your comment?

Well, I definitely agree with what he said because he's talking about when he and I were both teaching there. I would say that that pretty well covers it, but I also feel that the kids through their home life have the impression that education was extremely important and that they needed to do the best work they could in school. Parents coddle their kids so much more today and give them excuses for not doing well. Blame it on the teacher, blame it on anybody and let the TV do the babysitting. I guess I'm biased because I haven't had a TV for about 35 years now. When the TV broke I said, "Look, forget it."

### What teachers do you remember working with most?

There's been a lot of teachers with whom I've worked. I've worked with Mary Ann Schlieve a lot. She has a very interesting background and she did a lot of teaching in military areas. Although I'm not in touch with her because she really keeps to herself. I taught with her for a long time, but she retired a bit before me. And then the girls that eventually replaced her that I taught with for the last four years that I was there were all younger and they were wonderful and I still am in contact with them.

I learned a lot from the younger girls. I wasn't as computer literate as these younger people and so all the little tricks that you can do, like newsletters, I wasn't able to do so I got a little intimidated by not being to work the computer like they could. And I was happy to not have to learn any more than I had already learned. When you think of how technology has changed since the 1960s, it's amazing.

### What would you consider your greatest memory of El Rodeo?

There are so many. One of the things that my husband and I did in 1974 was we built a garden at El Rodeo. Eventually we had to redo it, but it's still there today. It's 30 individual raised beds built in a rectangular configuration. It's got a six-foot tower all around it, it's got a compost bin. And so what we had since 1974 was the fourth grade garden and at first I had only my homeroom gardening and we worked that into the science unit and everything and it was really fun and then I felt a little bit of pressure that I put on myself to incorporate the other classes. And that put a lot more pressure on me because if a teacher didn't want to give up any science time or didn't want to cooperate in one regard or another, then eventually I had to do it during my recess time. But it worked out very well and I guess one of the things that really made me happy was



Over  
**1000**  
Brand names

[www.lapeerbeauty.com](http://www.lapeerbeauty.com)

- Full Service Salon & Spa
- Hair Care • Skin Care
- Cosmetics • Bath Products

- Knowledgeable staff • Competitive prices
- Open 7 days



**Beverly Hills • 8950 W. Olympic Bl.**  
Between Doheny & Robertson  
M-Sat 9-7:30/ Sun 11-6  
**(310) 859-8899**

**Miracle Mile • 6244 Wilshire**  
Wilshire & Crescent Heights  
M-Sat. 10 am- 7pm/ Sun closed  
**(323) 934-7500**

where are they now? cont. from page 4

when kids would come back to see me after they had graduated from high school or college or they were out of college and it was so neat because oftentimes I'd recognize them and I'd just know who they were and the first words out of their mouth always was, "Is the garden still there?" So I felt that if nothing else, that was my legacy. And I was very happy; I went to the Christmas party this year for the faculty and met the guy that has taken over the garden. After four years they finally have something going on in the garden again which I'm very happy about. The first year after I left, I did go back to work with one of the fourth grade teachers and I was going every week to work with the garden and that's when the construction, the renovating of that wing that faces Wilshire Boulevard, that's where the garden is. I was told that would be all disrupted with guys using the sidewalk next to the garden so we wouldn't be able to water it and this and that so we sorted stopped midway. As usual the schedule was delayed so we could have gardened that whole year, but that's okay. It was fun, we really utilized it and kids worked in groups.

#### What would you consider your biggest challenge as a teacher?

I think the biggest challenge overall was to accomplish everything that needed to be done. Now that's pretty mundane, but in essence that's really what it came down to. So little time to do everything you have to do. Believe me, I didn't have a life until I

retired. I never went to movies, I never did anything except grade papers, do lesson plans, plan for the classroom, do report cards. That was really the way it was, now fourth and fifth grade level is a really heavy workload because not only do you have larger class sizes up to 30 kids, but you've got the kids now writing essays and you're teaching them all the things they have to do to prepare them going into middle school. They can hopefully do work now, not just a B and a C and how you do the alphabet. So I really would have to say that the biggest challenge was trying to teach everything you wanted to teach and to do it effectively.

#### What students do you remember teaching?

The first one that pops into my head was Ashley Hamilton, George Hamilton's kid. Although he doesn't remember it, I did teach Bob Dylan's kid just for math, Jacob Dylan. And he came back once to school when he was at the high school and I saw him in the hallway and I greeted him and he had no idea who I was. And I had Joan Collins' kid; she was on TV; I had her daughter Katie for math. She was a very sweet girl. Angie Voight [now Angelina Jolie]. And I could see at that time, "Oh boy, that kid is going to be trouble; she's so gorgeous."

#### How did you make the fourth grade exciting?

We had a culmination of activities often geared to social studies, like we used to

study Japan and California. So we'd have a Japanese festival and we'd make tied-dyed robes, kimonos, and the mothers would all get in there and they would have a meal. The kids would all help cut up the food and do stuff for the meal and then we did several activities and the kids would rotate. I remember I did a park lesson with flower arranging and we did some origami and the kids would rotate between the rooms and the teachers would specialize in teaching each group something and that was always fun. Then when we switched completely to just teaching California, we'd have a culmination activity at the end of the year. We had our square dancing, which the P.E. department would really help out with and the parents would be invited to all this stuff. They put on a little luncheon of Mexican type food. Often with the gardening too, we'd harvest our stuff and go up to the home-ec room, which used to be there, which isn't anymore. They don't have home-ec and shop anymore.

It really is [too bad] especially after the gender bias disappeared and the girls used to be able to take shop and the boys would participate in home-ec and everything and then it just disappeared because it couldn't afford to and you didn't have space and you had to pass the test; keep those scores up.

#### Tell us about former principal, Steve Fisher?

He came to El Rodeo as a teacher the same year that I did in '66. He taught History for a long time. The staff usually had Christmas parties at somebody's house and he'd play Santa Claus, and I mean, he's a non-stop comedian anyway so he was always funny. He just had a lot of empathy for people in general, whether they'd be teachers or parents or children and he was easy to get along with, and that's part of being an administrator is to have people like you enough to go along with things that you think are important. He was able to accomplish that most of the time through humor. Since he left, and I don't think you want to say this, it just has not been the same at El Rodeo. Usually the staff has been very cohesive and helpful to each other, and I don't know how it is now. When you're frustrated with the people who are telling you what to do it cannot be very happy. I know that when Frank Scott left, then we ended up with a guy that was just horror. And he only lasted two years, Steve Enoch [interviewed in issue #267]. There were very few people who could stomach him, so we were very happy when Steve Fisher came back. He started off teaching, then he was vice principal at Horace Mann and then he came back to El Rodeo as principal.

#### Why did you decide to retire?

I was 62 by that time, and that's a pretty good age to retire first of all, and like I had mentioned before, it was getting to the point where you just didn't feel like you were teaching and enjoying it because there was so much pressure, constant pressure, to teach academics and teach things that you didn't go along with.

So it just got too frustrating. Frustration is

why I retired. It had nothing to do with the children, it just had to do with the times. And that was basically it. I was counting down two years before, and I was waiting to reach a maximum age where my pension would be beneficial to me. As it is, I retired a semester too soon. I retired before they gave teachers a bonus for having taught 30 years or more, where they gave you a tax credit for all the things you bought for the classroom, they didn't base your pension on the average of your three highest salaries, they gave it to you based on your highest salary. All these little things, and I remember when I found that out I thought, "Oh my god, you know, look what I did," and then my husband said to me, "Would you have wanted to have taught another year?" and I said, "You know what, I don't think I could have done it." That tells you where I was at by that time. I knew that someone would take over, I didn't need to worry about that.

#### What are you doing now?

I'm so enjoying my life. I have time to exercise and the last cat I adopted was a gift from a student who always got my attention, Sam Mandel, when I retired. I'd always said that when I retired I wanted to do stained glass and finally be able to garden around my own home because that was staring to get very neglected. So that's both of the two primary things that I do, I'm doing stained glass and gardening and I have a vegetable garden in my backyard and a big front yard where I have all my flowers and everything and we have a compost bin and I have cats that I can enjoy. I enjoy being home because when I taught I never had a chance to be home and just enjoy being home. Now I can read the paper and I can listen to the radio and I can go out to lunch and "meet with the girls" when I want to. I do tutor three little boys, the child and cousins of my cleaning lady, and that's about all I need to do in order to stay in touch with teaching. I don't even need that, but I feel like these kids need attention and since I always felt that a low class size would be really good, well this is like one-on-one, so if I can't accomplish something, then I'm a failure [laughing].

#### What advice would you give a young teacher today?

I'd say this is a little bit colored because of the pressure I know these people are under, but to just enjoy it as much as you can, try to block out the pressures that are being brought upon you and enjoy the children. Sneak in as many fun activities that you can do with them and try to ignore the static that might be reaching you. And then again, you know, it depends on the school and the conditions under which someone is teaching. I was pleased at the staff party, so many of the people have changed, there's a lot of new teachers and they're lovely, and I met a lot of them and they're just wonderful people. So I know that they are putting their all into it just like I did too.

-- Interview by Andrea Simpson

Coming next week: Former Horace Mann Principal Helene West Feldman



**FREE**  
In Office Whitening With  
Veneer Restorations.

AS SEEN ON  
ABC'S HIT SHOW  
**EXTREME  
MAKEOVER**

**ZOOM!**  
Professional Teeth Whitening

**\$395.00**

\*Zoom & In-Home Whitening  
In-Home To Be Used For Maintenance Or  
As A Gift To A Friend  
(Reg. \$700)

**ADULTS & CHILDREN CARE PACKAGE**  
**\$49.00** **\$0** No cost to  
Insurance and  
Medi-Cal Patients

**Complete X-Rays**  
**Thorough Cleaning & Polish**  
**Comprehensive Exam & Diagnosis**  
**Oral Cancer Screening**  
**Complete Periodontal Exam**

**Children and Adults**  
**General and Cosmetic Dentistry**  
**Smile Makers**  
**Fariba Salehani D.D.S**  
**Corner of Robertson & Olympic**  
**(310)358-1200**



## Love, Fate and Destiny In Your Future

By Irv Rudman

### A Positively Sealed Fate

After seeing "Fateless", the directorial debut from Oscar-nominated cinematographer Lajos Koltai, I can safely say that fate of this film is sealed. And what a good fate it is.

An epic adaptation of the contemporary classic novel by Nobel Prize winner, Imre Kertesz, "Fateless" has received worldwide acclaim and been chosen as Hungary's Official Entry for the Academy Awards in the Best Foreign Language Film category.

Set in 1944, as Hitler's Final Solution becomes policy throughout Europe, "Fateless" explores the tale of a 14-year-old Jewish boy, Gyuri Kovacs, from Budapest who finds himself swept up by cataclysmic events beyond his comprehension. Having never felt deeply connected to his religion, Gyuri finds himself separated from his family due to the rushed and random deportation of the city's large Jewish population.

After being brought to a concentration camp, Gyuri's existence becomes a surreal adventure in adversity and adaptation. He is never quite sure if he is the victim of his captors or of an absurd destiny that decides suffering and salvation arbitrarily. When he finally returns home, he longs for the sense of community he experienced in the camps and feels alienated from his Christian neighbors who turned a blind eye to his fate and his Jewish friends who avoided deportation and now want to put the war and travesty behind them.

What makes this film so powerful and unique is Koltai's ability to focus on the dehumanization of the Jews by showing how Gyuri's humanity is stripped from him, as ironically, the humanity of his fellow inmates keep him alive.

Through gorgeous lighting and visuals and a combination of characters that challenge the cinematic clichés of epic tragedy, the film conveys devastating events in an original and deeply philosophical manner.

While best known from his collaboration with renowned director Istvan Szabo (resulting in the 1981 oscar-winning "Mephisto"), Koltai is one of the most highly respected cinematographers of the industry. His previous work includes four other Oscar-nominated films, including last year's "Being Julia." In 2001, Koltai received a nomination for Best Cinematography for his work on Giuseppe Tornatore's "Malena."

It's a must-see.

"Fateless" opens Jan. 26. Check your local listing for show dates and times.

### For That Special Someone

Looking for a gift? It's easier to look with candlelight!

It's your mother, sister, neighbor, or friend's birthday, or you're just looking for one of the best holiday sales in town. You have absolutely no idea what to buy-- maybe a scarf, some perfume, but you're still not quite sure if that's interesting

enough, and maybe it's the same thing you get her every year! Where do you go?

NBC 4 hails the gift shop Candle light and... as the "Best Candle Store and Gift Shop in L.A." and you should too! Opened by Dennis Gewant and Sharon Insul in 1994, Candle light and... recently moved into a larger and better space to accommodate their many gift items at 428 North Canon Drive.

You must walk through the store to appreciate everything they have to offer-- a remarkable and eclectic collection of merchandise imported from all over the world. Not only is Candle light and... where you can find your gifts, but they'll take care of everything for you, including delivery, shipping and complimentary gift wrap! Now that's a gift that keeps on giving. You just won't be able to refuse.

*Candle light and...*

*428 N. Canon Dr.*

*Beverly Hills*

*Tel: (310) 278-3168*

### Show Off Those Pearly Whites

No matter what age we are, we always want that perfect, glistening smile. Nothing's worse than looking at photos and hating your smile or constantly having to close your mouth for a photo op. Well, you don't have to be embarrassed anymore.

Drs. Maryam Yazdan and Hameed Nejat of Elegant Smile Dental create fantastic smiles-- and at a great price. With 0 percent financing and payments as low as \$39 a month, how could you go wrong?

And for \$39 you can also get an exam and teeth cleaning that includes all necessary x-rays. And for \$99 per arch you can get one-hour whitening, which is regularly \$450, or get a free implant and bad breath consultation. What a bargain!

All work is done in their spectacular offices and if you are a steady patient, there's a lifetime warranty. Dr. Nejat also performs oral surgery, including implants and non-surgical gum treatment, and you'll never go without special attention from everyone in the office.

You can find all this and more specials on their website at [www.elegantdental.com](http://www.elegantdental.com). There's free parking, and they're open Monday through Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 9 a.m.-6 p.m., but closed Wednesday -- so get there today. Don't have insurance-- no problem-- there's no cost for your first consultation. This is truly family dentistry.

And remember to bring your smile.

*Elegant Smile Dental*

*12222 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 104*

*Los Angeles*

**Tel: (310) 20-SMILE (76453)**

*Healthcare costs are kind of like the weather.*  
**EVERYBODY COMPLAINS ABOUT IT, BUT NOBODY SEEMS TO DO ANYTHING.**



Well, Health Net is doing something. Their monthly Medicare plan premiums for comprehensive medical and drug coverage are among the most affordable in Los Angeles County. Plus, Health Net makes everything about Medicare easy, from finding the right doctor to choosing the right plan, even getting the most out of the new prescription drug benefit. And now they are holding helpful seminars that show just how simple it all really is.

**\$0**  
MONTHLY  
PLAN PREMIUM



To learn about a Health Net Medicare seminar in your area, call **1-800-643-6993** or **1-800-929-9955** (TDD/TTY) Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. (except holidays), or visit [www.abetterdecision.com](http://www.abetterdecision.com).

*Thursday, January 12*  
*10:00 a.m. - Denny's*  
*10700 Jefferson Blvd.*  
*Culver City*

*Wednesday, January 18*  
*10:00 a.m. - Coco's*  
*8731 W. Pico Blvd.*  
*Los Angeles*

Health Net of California, Inc. is a Medicare Advantage organization with an annually renewed Medicare contract. Anyone with Medicare may apply. Premiums and benefits may vary by county and are effective January 1, 2006. You must continue to pay your Medicare premiums and receive all routine care from plan providers. Medicare beneficiaries can only enroll in this plan during certain times of the year. The Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit is only available to members of Health Net's MA-PD Plan. Beneficiaries that are already enrolled in an MA-PD Plan must receive their Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit through that plan. Limitations, restrictions, copayments and coinsurances may apply. A sales representative or Health Net appointed Insurance Agent will be present with information and applications. To arrange for accommodations for persons with special needs at sales meetings, call 1-800-643-6993. This is a paid endorsement.

Health Net of California, Inc. is a subsidiary of Health Net, Inc. Health Net is a registered trademark of Health Net, Inc. A Better Decision™ is a registered service mark of Health Net, Inc. All rights reserved.

Material ID # CAH-05-0546 (H0562) CMS approval 12/05

# from the hills of beverly



## Places To Dine and Shop, Some To Avoid

An event, a passing and a correction.

By Rudy Cole

Time for our annual best, moderately acceptable and not so wonderful places to dine, drink (no New Year's resolutions apply), shop and be served or ignored.

**Newest, most unusual entry:** Fogo De Chao, 133 North La Cienega, Many have tried and flopped at this venue, but if you are totally beyond nouvelle cuisine, this could be the place. In the event you are not familiar with the Brazilian tradition of continuous food service delivered to your table on oversized skewers, be prepared to manage the green and red signs that tell the servers you want more or need a breather. All kinds of meats arrive as soon as you flip to green-- no waiting and no need to fear being ignored.

The salad bar is first rate, but this open for dinner and lunch eatery is very pricey. With cocktails and dessert expect to put 80 to 90 bucks per person on your Visa. Service is very, very attentive, if somewhat cold and professional. (Less expensive for lunch).

**Most improved:** Crustacean, at Little Santa Monica and Bedford. I'm not sure how or when, but the food and service, at least at lunch, have returned to the nearly excellent standards they promised, and delivered, when they first opened. Attractive entry, cozy if somewhat crowded dining area, again one of the best Pacific dining experiences in town. However, park your own car at the city lot across the street or at the lots between the two Santa Monicas or be prepared to wait. Not their fault, but the one-way Bedford makes retrieving your vehicle a challenge.

Speaking of parking: A bad experience when you arrive or leave can impact your enjoyment almost as much as a poorly prepared steak. **Best parking services:** Regent Beverly Wilshire and Peninsula. Both have people that actually try to bring you car quickly and make you feel welcome when you arrive. Not as speedy, because of their limited parking options, but courteous and helpful are

the parking staff at the Beverly Hills. Front desk people at the Peninsula and Regent are also excellent.

**Best buffet:** The Beverly Hilton has by far the best at three meals every day. Of the three, lunch is the most value for your buck. Good hot stations and selections and diverse salad bar.

**Best deli:** Of course, Nate 'n Al. Still our most popular deli even though we miss **Kaye** and the efficient but grouchy guys that used to work the take out counter. Don't expect instant service, not part of the culture here, the diner is expected to accommodate the servers who will not be rushed and respond with a smile when you try. But the food quality is always first rate and the juice is freshly squeezed.

**Best places to eat, atmosphere included:** Spago is our most elegant, non-hotel dining room. Best greeters at door, Wolf is usually around to make you feel welcome and **Fred Hayman** and other local celebs are at their usual tables. The Grill is the only restaurant in our city that reminds you of New York -- design and menu. Interesting note: Seldom see regulars of either at the competition.

Each has a very loyal following.

**Best hotel dining:** The Regent Beverly Wilshire will soon have a **Wolfgang Puck** steakhouse in the space that housed their fine dining room. They are also redoing their large

lounge-cocktail room opposite. But somehow, while all this was in the works, they redid the front restaurant, gave it a new name "BLVD" and changed it from casual dining to one of the best places to eat, and, more surprisingly, most popular rooms in town. Very, very busy bar scene and the best schnitzel to be found west of Vienna. Service is either very good or slow and indifferent, depends on the luck of the draw. Of course, the best dining experience and the most elegant setting remains the Belvedere at the Peninsula. The room itself is marvelous, the food equal to the best in the state and the service always perfect. No matter how busy, you never feel rushed. The adjacent cocktail lounge has our city's best bar tenders and servers and they manage to keep the veterans on staff. Good people watching, always. For more casual dining, try the open space on the roof next to the spa.

**Best political spotting:** Outside Sacramento, you can find more politicians at Caffe Roma than any restaurant in the state. **Arnold** hasn't deserted the place-- he was a regular before he gave up terminating villains on film for jousts with unions and Democrats, and our City Council incumbents are often found on the patio or inside. Beverly Hills Symphony's **Debbie Grossman** and realtor **Elaine Young**, and some venerable movie folks such as **Jackie Cooper** are also regulars. The owner brothers are fine greeters and a good pasta/salad bar is the best assurance you can eat and still return to the office on time. Assemblyman **Paul Koretz**, a longtime anti-smoking advocate, even put up with my pipe

*rudy cole cont. on page 8*

## URSULA'S COSTUMES

- Children & Adult Rentals
- Masks, Wigs, Make-up
- Fog Machine Rentals
- A Supermarket of Accessories & Costumes
- Alterations & Accessories
- Tailoring & Dressmaking



2516 Wilshire Blvd. In Santa Monica

(Just West of 26th Street)

Sales: (310) 582-8230 Rentals: (310) 582-8231

## The Travel Medicine Center And One Stop Travel Shop

### What Makes our First Aid Kits Special?

#### QUALITY

We use the highest quality components

We have the best cases for the kits

We can provide prescriptions

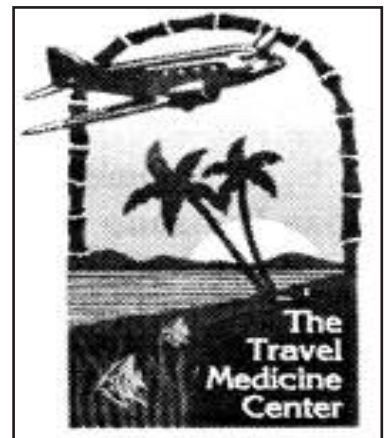
We include Common Sense First Aid,

THE book to have in a kit

We design the kits in modules, and can

Replace the modules as you use them

Our kits have been used by Industry, Movie Productions, the Military and Professionals all around the world!



131 N. Robertson Blvd.

Beverly Hills, CA 90211

**(310) 360-1331**

Just north of Wilshire • Free parking

*rudy cole cont. from page 7*  
and Arnold's cigar recently.

**Traditional favorite:** Lawry's would not survive if it depended on locals-- many of their regular patrons, from as far away as Orange County, keep their large dining room full almost every night of the week. For some reason, the more sophisticated of Beverly Hills seldom arrive. The service is consistent and very professional-- most of the servers are not trying to find an agent or peddle a script. Best salad dressing: French.

**Best places to shop for food and basics:** Pavilions quality cannot compare with Gelson's-- still the best food shop in West Los Angeles and improved with the move of the deli section to the front of the store, but Pavilions, the only remaining full service market in the city, has the most helpful staff of any market its size in the western area. From cashiers to managers, there is a willingness to help you find items and make your shopping experience pleasant. Whole Foods is always a mixed bag of service.

Clearly, the best in produce and meats, but some of the staff seem in a perpetual state of angst. On a recent visit, two "team" members sent me to two different aisles to find a whipped cream item. Both were wrong. Stores in Brentwood and West Los Angeles have larger selections, better service. This was not true when Whole Foods first arrived in Beverly Hills. For smaller grocery stores, Owen's and Beverly Hills Market are very service oriented. **Elaine Webster** at Beverly knows everyone, and **Shaun**, the genial owner, is very involved in the community in

giving back-- not true of all the retailers of our city.

**Highly successful and still clueless:** How can you argue with the legions of people who shop at Rite Aid, and I am still among them despite dozens of frustrating shopping experiences. If Staples' slogan is, "Yes, we have that", Rite Aid on Canon could well coin the phrase, "We have no idea." Not having items in stock and not having any idea where they are located is the rule, not the exception. Long lines appear quicker than additional checkers and staff seems on a rotating employment wheel.

**Well worth saving:** We now have a full service book store, Dutton's on North Canon. For all the years we complained about our lack of bookstores, we now should make sure this one succeeds. Good inventory, fine sales staff. Another resource worth supporting is Pioneer and Lucerne Hardware on North Crescent Drive, the only one we have left. High marks for diverse inventory and knowledgeable staff.

**Quick bites:** Best chopped salad: La Scala. Most romantic setting: Il Cielo. Best Chinese, but overpriced: Mr. Chow. Best on Rodeo: Luxe Hotel in and outdoor dining and McCormick & Schmick's at Two Rodeo. Best small deli: Judi's on Bedford.

**Beverly Hills Weekly Publisher Josh Gross** likes Piccolo Paradiso on South Beverly Drive. He recommends the Ahi Tuna.

**Best small jeweler:** Jackel's in our building on South Beverly-- friendly and economical.

**Coming soon:** A kosher steakhouse, an

upscale, highly successful operation now in Manhattan, will open next year in the Rodeo Collection.

**Steakhouses are back:** Good meat, better bar scene: Mastro's. Most comfortable, great meat: Ruth's Chris Steakhouse on South Beverly. However, best all around steaks: Porterhouse Bistro between Robertson and La Cienega on Wilshire. They are in the former Andre's space and across from **Dr. Ron Grusd's** Advanced Radiology. An MRI and a steak in one block!

**Best supporters of charities:** We have a whole army of corporate donors, but we single out the Athens Group for only one reason: They won their Montage hotel fight, but continue to back worth causes, generously. They are a good corporate citizen. Lacking in giving back are many of our larger retailers, including my absolute favorite drug store: Rite Aid.

**Art events:** A "rediscovered" work of Rembrandt is part of a special preview showing of an auction of "Old Masters" Sotheby's will hold later this month in New York. "Portrait of an Elderly Woman in a White Beret", whose estimated value is \$3 to \$4 million, can be seen, along with other great master's works, from Jan. 10-12 between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. at their Beverly Hills gallery, 9665 Wilshire Boulevard, at Bedford. Parking off Bedford. Preview here, auction later in New York.

\*\*\*

Thanks to all our readers who found our error in the name of the actor on "West

Wing" who died recently. His name is **John Spencer** and not John Seymour, as reported here. Also, there is no real conflict in the Assisted Living event honoring **Ron Haft** and **Abbe Land** and the BH Theatre Guild party recognizing the great works of **Sooky Goldman** and **Janet Salter** on Jan. 29. The Guild will take over The Four Seasons at lunch and Assisted Living will be in the evening at Shutters. Want more info.? E-mail us and we will do the honors.

\*\*\*

My condolences to the **Stern** and **Harris** families on the passing of **Ellen Stern Harris** (see brief on pg. 9).

\*\*\*

**Final thought:** This is so revolutionary, I hesitate to even suggest it. But just maybe this year we can find more reasons to agree on community goals and needs, than we can to differ or fight. Despite constant moans of doom and gloom, this remains one of the best managed, served, public education providing and attractive places to live, work and shop in the world. We can disagree on our future, but why not enjoy and appreciate what we have?

*Rudy Cole served for eight years as a member and chair of the city's Recreation and Parks Commission. He also was President of the Greystone Foundation and served on three other city committees. Rudy can be reached at: Rudy@bhweekly.com.*

# PUBLIC NOTICE

INTRODUCING

AS SEEN ON

We'll SELL It

FRANCHISES AVAILABLE

We Will SELL Anything For You on eBay!

We take the hassle out of selling. it's as simple as 1 2 3.

1. Drop off your items you'd like to sell (pick ups available).
2. We'll sell it.
3. We will send you a check.

IT'S THAT EASY!

Beverly Palm Plaza  
9186 W. Olympic Blvd.  
Beverly Hills, CA 90212  
**310.273.5504**

Sunset & Laurel Plaza  
7992 W. Sunset Blvd.  
Hollywood, CA 90046  
**323.848.7745**

FREE

eBay Fees!

Expires 1-30-06

www.wewillsellonline.com

# Conference Calling

- ◆ Local Numbers Throughout California
- ◆ Reservation-based or Reservationless
- ◆ Recording Capability

5 ¢/minute Local Access

10 ¢/minute Toll Free Access

The Telephone Connection

310-789-7900



# briefs



Ellen Stern Harris

## Ellen Stern Harris Passes Away

Ellen Stern Harris, a longtime activist on behalf of the City of Beverly Hills, the environment, good government and other public interest causes, passed away on Monday, Jan. 2,

after losing her battle with cancer. She was 76.

A third generation Beverly Hills resident, Harris, editor of *The Beverly Hills Citizen* and founder and president of Fund For The Environment, received many well-deserved honors. Among these was a salute from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors on October 2, 2004.

Harris was prominently involved in water quality and coastal protection issues for years, co-authoring Proposition 20, an initiative passed by the state's voters in 1972 that created the California Coastal Act. She also served as Vice Chair of the State Coastal Commission for its first four years.

She previously served on the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, where she helped to clean up the heavily polluted Los Angeles and Long Beach harbors, and worked to strengthen the state's water quality laws for the first time in 22 years.

Harris was also the lead amicus in the federal lawsuit to clean up the Santa Monica Bay, and represented the City of Beverly Hills and the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. There, she advocated for a fair rate structure so that residential rate payers would not have to subsidize agricultural and other commercial water users. She was also part of the Montage hotel opposition.

Harris served on the City of Beverly Hills' first Recreation and Parks Commission, the city's Cable Television Advisory Committee and most recently on the Technology Committee. Harris also ran unsuccessfully for Beverly Hills City Council in 1988.

Former Mayor Allan Alexander met Harris when they, along with 11 others, ran for the council.

"She was a person of great knowledge and strongly held opinions, especially with regard to environmental issues. I very much admired the passion and commitment she brought to the discussions during the campaign," Alexander said. "Although she was not elected to the City Council, I thought the City of Beverly Hills would benefit by her active participation and recommended her appointment to the Parks and Recreation Commission and later to the Technology Committee. She served admirably on both boards. Ellen was an outstanding member of the Beverly Hills community and she will be missed."

Another friend and former Mayor Robert Tanenbaum said Harris was a person who will be desperately missed.

"She had great intellect and cared tremendously about maintaining the residential integrity in the community," Tanenbaum said. "She

was a good citizen with extraordinary integrity herself. She was involved with so many important issues in Southern California and she wanted our community to be a model of integrity-- integrity between residential and development issues-- and I greatly respected that."

Harris also taught public policy at UCLA, and was named Woman of The Year by the Los Angeles Times, where she wrote a consumer advocate column for seven years. She has been recognized for her work with awards from The Sierra Club, The Audubon Society and the United Nations Association.

Beverly Hills Municipal League Chairman Thomas White attributes his involvement in city affairs to Harris herself.

"Ellen was responsible for my first involvement in Beverly Hills community affairs, and was generous with her wisdom, ideas and good counsel. She cared about the welfare of others, had legions of fans and we will all miss her," White said.

"California has lost one of its finest minds and most conscientious citizens," White added. "Ellen was dedicated to truth, fairness and openness in government."

A memorial service will be held Sunday, Jan. 8 at Greystone Mansion, 905 Loma Vista Drive, at 11 a.m. In lieu of flowers, the family has asked that donations in her name be made to Fund For the Environment, P.O. Box 228, Beverly Hills, CA 90213 to support the archiving of Ellen's records at UCLA.

Harris is survived by her brother, former Beverly Hills Board of Education member Fred Stern; son, Tom Stern; daughter, Jane Harris, son-in-law Michael Baumann; and grandson, Tom Baumann.

## Violette Nason Passes Away

Violette Nason passed away peacefully in her sleep on Saturday, Dec. 31, at the age of 101. She has long been recognized as the "First Lady of Beverly Hills", a title she earned by her consistent leadership in the philanthropic, civic and socio-cultural life of the city, as well as having been recognized by the Beverly Hills City Council in 1999 as the city's senior resident having resided here since 1924.

Her father, Fred R. Johnson, built Beverly Hills' first City Hall as well as Horace Mann School and many other structures. Johnson also built the Nasons home on North Rexford Drive, moving his family from Los Angeles to Beverly Hills in 1924.

Malcolm Nason, Violette's father-in-law, moved his family from Hollywood and became her neighbor, also in 1924. That is where Violette's and her husband Fred met. They were married at the Beverly Hills Community



Officers from the Beverly Hills Department were on hand to thank The Ladies Auxiliary at the Los Angeles Country Club for their generous donations supporting the Benjamin Banneker Special Education School in Los Angeles. More than 100 gifts were donated at this annual event. Pictured (L-R) are General Manager Kirk Reese with Officer Andrew Myers, Sergeant David Perez, Officer Michael McKessy and Officer Blake Nance.

Church, which later became the Beverly Hills Presbyterian Church, on October 16, 1928, the first couple to be married in the church's sanctuary.

Violette was involved in many city activities and organizations, including as a charter member of The Amazing Blue Ribbon of The Music Center, the Beverly Hills Garden Club as the last surviving founder, Achievement Rewards for College Scientists, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and as a charter member and past-president of The Junior Philharmonic Associates of the Los Philharmonic Orchestra, as well as a regular member of Les Amies, The Muses of The Natural History Museum, Friends of French Art and Freedom's Foundation of Valley Forge.

Violette was honored by The Junior Philharmonic Committee in 1996 and also by the House Ear Associates the same year. She received the coveted Theodore Roosevelt Award from the Council of the Navy League in 1996 and the Beverly Hills Pops Sybil Brand Award in 1989. She became honorary board member of The Assistance League of Southern California in 1970, having served as vice president for 11 years.

Violette also served as Honorary Chairperson for the Friends of Robinson Gardens "Into the Garden" dinner and patron tour. In 1984, Violette donated the Rose Garden at Robinson Gardens in memory of her late husband, Fred, who passed away that year.

Violette is survived by her son, Fred Jr., and her grandchildren Jeffrey, Michael, Darrin, Richard, Christian and Stacie, as well as 18 great grandchildren and one great great grandchild.

Services are pending and will be private.

## Abramoff Pleads Guilty To Three Charges

Embattled lobbyist and 1977 Beverly High graduate Jack Abramoff pleaded guilty Tuesday to federal charges of conspiracy, tax evasion and mail fraud, agreeing to cooperate in an influence-peddling investigation that threatens powerful members of Congress. He could be sentenced to 10 years in prison on each of the charges, but *The Washington Post* reported the sentence will be about one-third of that if he meets other parts of the plea agreement.

He was expected to enter a similar plea yes-  
*briefs cont. on page 10*

## Cure Yourself From All Ailments And Pains!

Zone Healing is the most, natural, safe and cost-effective way to heal yourself from almost any disease without the use of surgeries or drugs".

Perfect  
GLANDULAR  
HEALTH

**RESULTS ARE  
PHENOMENAL!**

Perfect  
DIGESTIVE  
HEALTH

Perfect  
ELIMINATIVE  
HEALTH

- Pain Management
- Sports Injuries
- Headaches
- Digestive Problems
- Elimination Problems
- Weight
- Sleep
- Numbness & Tingling
- Thyroid
- Fibromyalgia
- Acne
- Allergies
- Constipation

Perfect  
MUSCULAR  
HEALTH

Perfect  
NERVE  
HEALTH

Perfect  
CIRCULATORY  
HEALTH

Enroll in the only 7 day Stop Smoking Program with a Money Back Guaranteed. Call for details

**ONE STOP FOR ALL YOUR  
HEALING NEEDS**

## Zone Healing

292 S. La Cienega Blvd., Suite 101, Beverly Hills, CA. 90211

CALL NOW FOR YOUR FREE CONSULTATION SPACES ARE LIMITED

**310-308-2932** or visit the website for more info.  
[www.dryoavstein.com](http://www.dryoavstein.com)



Yoav Stein

briefs cont. from page 9

terday on charges filed in Florida regarding fraud, the *Post* reported. Those allegations carry a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison and that sentence would likely run concurrently with the Washington penalty, the *Post* said.

The agreement also calls for Abramoff and co-defendants to repay some \$25 million that was defrauded from clients, the *Post* said. The tax-evasion guilty plea will cost the lobbyist \$1.7 million to the Internal Revenue Service.

Documents related to the Washington charges claim Abramoff bribed public officials, including someone identified as "Representative #1," which the *Post* said is Rep. Robert Ney, R-Ohio. Ney has denied any wrongdoing.

However, Abramoff has been linked to other members of Congress. Two of his associates, including one who is a former press secretary of Rep. Tom DeLay (R-Texas) have also entered plea agreements.

All three are expected to help the government investigation into political corruption related to lobbying, the *Post* said.

Abramoff was interviewed in the *Weekly* in issue #144.

### Council Approves Parking Rate Increase

The City Council approved a parking rate increase for parking garages in the business triangle and on South Beverly Drive, at Tuesday's meeting. Parking garages will institute a one-hour free parking policy, except for the 450 North Rexford Drive and 321 South La Cienega Boulevard structures, which will maintain two-hour free parking rates. The new rates will include one-hour free parking with \$1 per half



Beverly High students will perform jazz, modern, hip hop and ballet at The Company 2006 dance concert Jan. 10-14. Pictured above are students performing the cabaret dance, "Le Chat Noir," choreographed by Ashley Steinberg and Megan Bernstein. Pictured (L-R) are Arielle Dubois, Michelle Laksman, Megan Bernstein, Ashley Steinberg and Danielle Levy. For tickets, call (310) 551-5100 ext. 8701. Photo: Barry Weiss

hour for the second hour and \$1.50 per half hour thereafter. For valet, the service fee will be \$4 per car up to two hours and \$1.50 per half hour thereafter with a \$13.50 daily minimum. The new policy should net additional annual revenues of about \$2.8 million.

### Extensive Council Meeting Leads To No Resolution On Ordinance

At Tuesday night's lengthy meeting, Beverly Hills City Council members and various lawyers discussed the nuances concerning the Common Interest Development (CID) ordinance. Originally written in 1982, the ordinance limits the number of apartment units that may be demolished annually, including apartment conversions to condominiums and stock co-operatives.

CID's consist of multi-family dwellings that are owned by businesses or residents. They include condominiums, stock co-ops, planned developments and community apartments. Through conversion, the ownership of apartments is transferred or "converted" from business-owned to group-ownership by residents.

The meeting opened with a logistical discussion concerning the ordinance and its conditions. City Council members made suggestions regarding the language used in wording the ordinance, but for the most part, agreed with

the concept as a whole.

Under the new ordinance, if a building is considered "character contributing," not all current code regulations need to be met. Since there are no concrete guidelines as to whether a building is "character contributing," the decision rests entirely on the shoulders of the Planning Commission. Some council members felt that the term "character contributing" was problematic, given the subjective nature and the lack of guidelines available.

Attorney Mitchell Dawson addressed the council regarding exempting, or "grandfathering," the nine recently approved stock-cooperatives. Already considered CIDs, Dawson and other lawyers want to change the legal title from stock co-operatives to condominiums.

However, of the nine properties, two are considered "less than worthy."

Dawson represents Lyn Konheim, who owns some of the buildings discussed. Several tenants, including actor Lorenzo Lamas, came to the meeting to provide testimonies on Konheim's behalf and to express their frustration over having to purchase stock co-operative.

Attorney Murray Fischer, who represents developers that have either bought or are in process of closing escrow for development of condominiums in Beverly Hills, voiced his concerns regarding the Planning Commission's decision to modify the existing demolition policy that allows developers to put up new projects.

According to the ordinance, only 83 properties are allowed to be demolished every year in Beverly Hills. "There are 8,400 units in the city now. If you only allow 83 a year, it will take 100 years to replace the existing rental stock," Fischer said.

Fischer believes that the ordinance should be revised so that 200 units are allowed to be demolished within the first year, and then 83 in succeeding years.

After a lengthy discussion between tenants, lawyers and council members, no final decision was reached. Ultimately, the council decided to consult the staff about the nine properties and how they meet the minimum requirements for parking, health and safety upgrades and internal upgrades to the units themselves.

The council also decided not to focus on "character contributing" as a requirement for grandfathering and plans to revisit the subject in a future meeting.

-- Compiled by Jennifer Kamm and Andrea Simpson

## Contour ThreadLift™

The 30 minute facelift...

No Surgery  
No Downtime

No Knife  
Big Lift!

FDA Approved



**BEVERLY HILLS  
MEDICAL CENTER**  
Harrison H. Lee MD, DMD, FACS

9001 Wilshire Blvd, 305 Beverly Hills, CA 90211  
DIPLOMATE OF THE AMERICAN BOARD OF FACIAL PLASTIC  
& RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY COSMETIC SURGERY

Tel: (310) 777-2627

Fax: (310) 777-2632

Website: [www.DRHARRISONLEE.com](http://www.DRHARRISONLEE.com)

Voted Top Physician by Consumers' Research Council of America

Named "BEST Candle & Gift Store in LA" - NBC 4

Candle light  
and ...

# SALE

Gift wrap (as always) FREE

428 N. Canon Dr.

(Next to La Scala)

310-278-3168

[www.candlelightand.com](http://www.candlelightand.com)

# coverstories

## WAR OVER THE OVERLAY ZONE **Why some Beverly Hills locals are fighting the implementation of the 11-digit phone number change enacted this year.**

By Andrea Simpson

**The California Public Utilities Commission (PUC) unanimously approved a plan last August for an all-services area code overlay to the existing 310 area code in Southern California. This means that phone customers in the South Bay and Westside, including Beverly Hills, will have to dial 11 digits for all calls and residents could begin using this dialing pattern last Saturday, Dec. 31. But some in Beverly Hills hope to put this telephone plan on hold.**

The Commission ordered implementation of the new area code, 424.

In Beverly Hills the City Council was provided with an overview of the PUC proposal and staff attended a PUC hearing to oppose 10-digit dialing and the city proposed at the hearing that Beverly Hills and the Westside area maintain the 310 area code and designate the South Bay area as 424.

"We suggested a phased-in approach to retire 310 area codes in the South Bay as telephone numbers were taken out of service and new ones instituted," Mayor Linda Briskman said. "In the staff presentation the City Council directed staff to provide public information to the community over and above what the PUC was planning to disseminate."

An overlay will not require consumers with existing telephone numbers to change their area code. Instead, consumers who want new telephone numbers may have to accept telephone numbers with the new 424 area code. Some consumers may be assigned a different area code for new telephone numbers within the same residence or business where multiple telephone numbers already exist.

Under the new overlay plan, all calls within the 310/424 overlay region must include a "1" followed by the three-digit area code and seven-digit line number. Customers may begin using this dialing pattern beginning Dec. 31, 2005, and must use it starting July 26, 2006. New numbers will begin to be issued using the new 424 area code on or after Aug. 26, 2006.

In 1999, the state PUC voted to kill the 310 area code overlay sought by telephone companies, halting 11-digit dialing for local calls.

Area code within area code overlays have been accepted with only scattered protests in

New York City, Chicago, Maryland and elsewhere. But on the Westside and in the South Bay, the proposal has always triggered protests. San Fernando Valley residents also rose up against a similar proposal for the 818 area code.

Former Assemblymember Wally Knox (D-Los Angeles) headed legislation in 1999 making it harder for new area codes, including overlays, to be implemented.

"What we succeeded in doing was create a commitment to a much higher demonstration of need," Knox said. "The issue we discovered was that there was a very lackadaisical demonstration of need and for years the companies claims were taken for granted."

Knox says although he could not comment on specifics of today's issue, the same question still remains.

"Is there actually a need? Because of course none of us want to run out of numbers," Knox said.

When an overlay is created, all new phone numbers in that area get a new area code, while existing numbers keep the old one. But all callers in the zone must dial area codes for all calls, even local ones.

The commission's action in 1999, approved on a 3-2 vote, halted the 424 area code overlay, but six years later in a decision made in August 2005, the PUC reversed its decision.

Beverly Hills resident and telecommunications CEO Marc O'Krent said he is in favor of the overlay because no one has to change their phone number, but he is not in favor of the way the PUC is implementing it, and like in 1999 he doesn't think people will accept it.

"What I found last time when I worked on it was people did not like dialing '1' plus 310 to call a local number down the street," said O'Krent, President of The Telephone Connection. "I'm in favor of an overlay because I don't want a split. There has been a big political battle between the Westside cities, including Santa Monica, Beverly Hills and Malibu, and neither one of those wants to give up their 310 area code. So overlay makes sense because nobody has to change their phone number. New lines of service will have a new code and there are so many overlays in our country now that in terms of major cities that have them including Chicago, New York, Miami, Dallas, Pennsylvania; it's very common."

## Purity You Can Trust.

When your family's health is foremost, you can rely on YOSEMITE WATERS to provide quality drinking water. Enjoy good tasting water that is completely free of chemicals, unfriendly bacteria like cryptosporidium and unwanted matter such as lead, which is found in most household plumbing systems.



**YOSEMITE  
WATERS...**

**Convenient, Reliable & Affordable.**

*We're the purity you can trust!*

**1-800-427-8420**

**YOSEMITE  
WATERS**

## THE BAGEL FACTORY *SIMPLY THE BEST*

THE BAGEL FACTORY is your neighborhood bagel bakery serving Los Angeles Westside community and the Bay Area simply baking the best bagels in the city!

THE BAGEL FACTORY features:

- 22 varieties of fresh baked bagels
- Six varieties of cream cheese both regular and lite
- 15 varieties of delicious homemade soups
- Incredible challahs every Fridays
- Muffins, sweets, premium coffees and many more
- Party platters for any occasion



### THREE CONVENIENT LOCATIONS

#### Sonny's Soups.

Non-Dairy. Low Fat. No Cholesterol. Made Fresh Daily.  
Hand Cut Vegetables. Popular Varieties. Pure Filtered Water.  
No Starch or Fillers.  
8 oz. or 16 oz. or 32 oz..

### Made FRESH Daily

**Los Angeles**  
Cadillac at Robertson  
310.837.6046

**West Los Angeles**  
Sepulveda at National  
310.477.8460

**Torrance**  
Hawthorne at Torrance  
310.540.2077

What O’Krent doesn’t like about the new plan is that most other states implement 10-digit dialing, but California has always had ‘1’ plus 10-digit dialing. Recently, O’Krent has been working to try to get the ‘1’ thrown out, and he says he’s been losing.

Briskman too said her biggest objection was the 11-digit dialing versus 10-digits, which is done all over the country. “Why dial 1 first?” Briskman said.

O’Krent has filed about five motions with the PUC to have them overturn the ruling, and he’s also filed a motion to complain to the FCC in conjunction with the South Bay Council of Governments, which includes 16 other cities in the South Bay and Los Angeles County, asking them to change the PUC ruling.

“It created a situation where they actually condoned two different types of dialing. On your cell phone you don’t have to dial with a ‘1.’ But they are going to force the wireline carriers, like SBC and Verizon, to have 11-digit dialing. There’s a federal rule that says you cannot have two different dialing patterns in the same area for two different classes of carriers, wireless and wireline,” O’Krent said.

The County of Los Angeles also filed a complaint Dec. 23 arguing that it does not need two numbers because there’s millions of numbers that phone companies are hanging on to.

The coalition of South Bay officials has charged that a state agency has failed to count remaining telephone numbers in the 310 area code and implement additional available conservation measures, and an overlay will violate a state law authored by state Sen. Debra Bowen, requiring the commission to “perform a telephone utilization study and implement all reasonable telephone number conservation measures.”

The last such study was done about five years ago, when state officials discovered telecommunications companies were hoarding 3 million unused numbers in the 310 area code. Last year, more than 2 million remained unused.

The argument was made in a 10-page written letter to the PUC in response to an earlier recommendation by an administrative law judge endorsing a 424 overlay, the first of its kind in the state.

The coalition consists of the South Bay Cities Council of Governments including 16 cities from the airport to the port of Los Angeles; Rep. Jane Harman (D-El Segundo), Assemblywoman Jenny Oropeza (D-Carson), Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe; the South Bay Association of Chambers of Commerce; and Sen. Debra Bowen.

“Our feeling is that there is really no reason for this overlay; that there are numbers left in the 310 area code that are not being conserved and the PUC has done a really great job over the last five years of number conservation measures, but there is more that can be done” said Jacki Bacharach, Executive Director of the South Bay Council of Governments.

The coalition’s first position is that there should be no overlay.

“What’s happening is that pager companies, for example, have 750,000, the phone companies are saying that they’re losing numbers because they’re in different rate centers and there are certain rate centers that are running out of numbers. But what technology is today, they don’t have to be giving numbers out of rate centers. Wireless numbers are not given out that way. So the case is made that they’re using these artificial, or old standards, for deciding that there aren’t enough numbers. Whereas, if they just said you don’t need rate centers, you’d have a lot of numbers available,” Bacharach said.

The South Bay Council of Governments has also joined O’Krent in his battle at the FCC asking that it order the PUC to be consistent with wireless and wireline.

“We joined [O’Krent] in his petition because we feel that if this ends up happening, we want it to be as easy for people as possible and why should we have to dial a ‘1’ if it’s not necessary,” Bacharach said. “It just makes it more inconvenient and if this has to be done at all, we want it to be as convenient as possible.”

The most recent PUC decision is a victory for telecommunications companies which maintain that the overlay is needed to handle the surging demand for phone numbers. Nationwide, the need for new phone numbers has escalated to feed a seemingly insatiable demand for cellular phones, faxes, modems and other phone lines.

Back in 1999, the FCC granted the commission permission to allot numbers in blocks of 1,000, instead of 10,000, and to force telephone companies to return unused numbers. That same year, the state Legislature approved AB 406, putting a greater burden of proof on telephone companies seeking to create area codes or overlays. O’Krent says he believes though that there is a great lack of 310 numbers.

“[Today telephone companies] do have a lot of numbers they’re not giving out, but they’re not contiguous. Right now the way the phone network works is that numbers are assigned to phone companies in contiguous blocks of a 1,000 numbers. They may have millions of numbers that are not being used, but they’re not in these blocks and the switching technology can only handle things in blocks of 1,000,” O’Krent said. “So technologically we should be moving to something where if there is a free number, it’s put into a pool and any carrier that wants to assign one to a customer can pull it out of a pool. We don’t have that with local numbers yet, and the big driver of this whole thing is wireless. The wireless carriers are running out of numbers. A lot of our customers who want numbers in Beverly Hills for their cell phone can’t get them now; they have to get numbers in 323 or in the South Bay.”

Local business owners do not cheer the decision, but they are not too concerned

“I don’t think it’s going to make that much difference if we have to dial a ‘1’ in front of 310,” said Norbert Wabnig, owner of The Cheese Store.

Fran Berger of The Farm expressed the same sentiments.

“It’s going to be like dialing 323 even though it’s next door. There’s nothing I can do. What can we do? It’s a public utility,” Berger said. “I think that people are getting concerned because it’s something they haven’t had to do yet. But I’m not concerned.”

Briskman said she thinks the Westside should remain with 310, not 424.

“If, as the PUC and telephone providers state, additional telephone numbers are needed, it would have been better to maintain the 310 area code in Beverly Hills and the Westside and designate the South Bay with the 424 area code,” Briskman said. “It will be confusing to residents, businesses and visitors to have to dial so many digits, especially from neighbor to neighbor. We will do our best to make sure our residents understand what they need to do. We especially need to emphasize that emergency 911 calls are not affected by this.”

Briskman added that she believes today there is no shortage of phone numbers.

“This could be an industry manipulated ‘crisis.’ A geographic split would be preferable, but despite the city’s efforts, this is not a decision the city could make. It was not within the city’s control,” Briskman said.

In 1999, activism on the Westside may have played a large role in the overlay’s defeat, including a series of opinion columns by Robert Scheer in the Santa Monica and Westside editions of *Our Times*, a now defunct community newspaper published by the *Los Angeles Times*. At the same time, Steven Teitelbaum, a Santa Monica-based plastic surgeon launched an Internet website, [www.stopoverlay.com](http://www.stopoverlay.com), where thousands of people joined him in his fight against the overlay.

“The phone companies lied blatantly saying they were in imminent crisis of phone numbers and with this many years later they still have plenty of 310 phone numbers. So we caught them lying [in 1999] and they’re lying today,” Teitelbaum said.

Teitelbaum said he planned on starting up the website once again this time around, but changed his mind when he found out the date of the public hearing.

“The problem is the deck is so stacked by them that the public has no one speaking for them. You get a notice that there’s a hearing on a Tuesday at 10:30 in the morning in some building in Culver City. So who can take off work and find this building in Culver City? Then they say, ‘This is what the public wants,’ but they stack the room with the wrong people. So they make a hearing that no reasonable person can attend and then they stack it with their own attendees. So the whole process is corrupt, it’s dishonest,” Teitelbaum said.

“The concept of dialing 11 digits to call your neighbor across the street is asinine and unnecessary and illogical and people get outraged at this; it’s the ultimate example of red tape and government bureaucracy and government mishandling of a public issue,” Teitelbaum added.

At the end of 1998, more than 70 million phone numbers were being used by wireless phones nationwide, up 25 percent in one year. To meet that demand, state regulators in the past would split off new area codes-- creating 818, 310, 562, 323 and 626 out of what was once the 213 area.

The city’s Communications & Marketing office will supplement the PUC materials to inform residents of this change. Residents will be referred to their telephone provider and the PUC to address problems and concerns.

---

**“It will be confusing to residents, businesses and visitors to have to dial so many digits, especially from neighbor to neighbor. We will do our best to make sure our residents understand what they need to do. We especially need to emphasize that emergency 911 calls are not affected by this.”**

**-- Mayor Linda Briskman**

---

# GENERAL PLAN GETS MORE SPECIFIC

**Updated information illustrating Beverly Hills’ existing conditions, helping to formulate policies and programs is now available to the public.**

By Jennifer Kamm

After years of research and analysis, the General Plan Technical Background Report (TBR), a document that describes Beverly Hills’ current conditions for physical, social and economic resources, was distributed to council members Tuesday at the informal meeting.

The comprehensive, seven-chapter, report addresses the existing characteristics, trends and forecasts, as well as overall issues that affect each resource area. The TBR will serve as the basis from which any subsequent policies and programs will be formulated into the updated General Plan. The information will provide the baseline against which the proposed land use plan, when it is developed, will be compared in the Environmental Impact Report that will be

prepared. It also provides a factual “snapshot” of the existing state of the city’s infrastructure, demographics and land use which is useful to bear in mind when considering new policies, said Mahdi Aluzri, Community Services Department Director.

At the conclusion of each chapter, the General Plan consultants, EIP Associates and the city, lists issues that should be considered when discussing future plans.

“These are issues that the consultants and staff felt the data felt merited particular attention when developing the preliminary goals and objectives,” Aluzri said.



*Beverly Hills Hotel at 9641 Sunset Boulevard*

Chapter 2 describes the existing and expected land uses, population and demographics within the City of Beverly Hills. Residential development is the leading existing land use within the city, comprising 2,367 acres, or 85 percent of the total acreage. Nonetheless, commercial development still plays a prominent role in the city, especially in the forms of office space, retail facilities

and medical offices. In fact, more than 38 percent, an astounding 10,289,999 square feet, of the city’s non-residential areas are comprised solely of offices. Despite the contention that there may be nowhere to park, the city is actually home to 1,057,350 square feet of public parking facilities.

The newest trend to enter Beverly Hills is mixed-use development. Currently, planning and construction are underway for mixed-use projects that would allow both commercial and residential development at the same location. Such expansion is highly controversial amongst residents because according to the TBR, the city has not yet established any standards for identifying locations where mixed-use development would be appropriate.

As indicated in the TBR, there are almost no vacant properties within Beverly Hills. As a result, any additional development will have to occur as infill or re-use of existing properties. This creates discrepancy among residents because older, one-story houses are being replaced with larger, two-story mansions. As the desire to “keep up with the Jones” continues, many feel that the character and uniformity of Beverly Hills will begin to change.

Like many other cities with a high-employment rate, the city’s daytime population greatly surpasses its resident population. While this aids the city economically, it puts citizens at risk should a disaster or large-scale emergency situation occur during the day. As a result, the city’s public safety agencies need to take extra precautions in emergency preparedness and disaster planning efforts.

According to Aluzri, the city has a Multi-Hazard Functional Disaster Plan that defines how Beverly Hills plans, prepares, responds and recovers from an event. “Each day the city works to plan and prepare for a disaster which includes holding trainings and exercises. Scenarios can include both day and nighttime response,” Aluzri said.

Chapter 3 depicts the existing conditions of the city’s public infrastructure and utilities systems including water, sewer, drainage, electricity, natural gas, telecommunications and circulation. At present, treated water is purchased from the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) and supplied to more than 9,400 residents and businesses throughout Beverly Hills. Although 90 percent of city’s water is imported, the remaining portion comes from four local groundwater production wells. Three of the wells are located in the Beverly Gardens Park, with the other in the Burton Way median. Additionally, there are also 10 reservoirs (five above ground and five below) within the Beverly Hills water systems that range in size from one million gallons to more than 19 million gallons.

The city also has two emergency water service connections from the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. Given the amount of tourists and employees that travel to Beverly Hills every day, the city needs to become less reliant on water imported from the MWD and create facilities for additional water storage should there be an emergency situation, according to the report. In order become less reliant on imported water, the city needs to reduce the amount of water used for private and municipal irrigation. As a result, in April 2004, the city opened a reverse osmosis water treatment plant as part of the Groundwater Recovery Program that enables member agencies to develop local groundwater supplies.

Like other cosmopolitan areas, the amount of available landfill space is not enough to accommodate the amount of waste produced by the city. As a result, the city may face increased hauling costs in years to come. A more aggressive approach to decrease waste and encourage recycling is needed, the report said.

Also, the city does not currently have a comprehensive energy conservation program that would guide the provision of energy as new or expanded development occurs.

“There is no city-specific program, but in corroboration with other city departments, we are working on developing a sustainable development program that addresses issues more than just energy conservation. Sustainable development addresses water conservation, use of recyclable materials and other environmentally friendly design criteria,” Aluzri said.

Chapter 4 describes existing public services and facilities within the city, including schools, libraries and parks and recreation. In the five-mile radius that comprises Beverly Hills, there

are 14 different educational facilities. According to the report, currently some of the schools are operating below allowable capacity and student enrollment is decreasing.

As the city’s population continues to grow, especially the number of children, there will be more of a demand for parks and recreational facilities in the area. Presently, there is not a standard for open space-to-population, and according to national standards, the city is deficient in its amount of park acreage. The council is now aggressively exploring the idea of an 80,000 square foot indoor/outdoor community recreational center.

Citizens with a love for literature have the option of visiting either the main Beverly Hills Public Library or the smaller, Roxbury Senior Library. In order to prolong the use of the main library, key issues such as security, storage and general maintenance and upkeep of the facility need to be discussed, according to the report.

Chapter 5 discusses the city’s existing environmental resources, including plants and animals, water quality, topography and historic elements. Due to the abundance of steep hillsides and mountainous areas nearby, fires, floods and landslides are especially threatening for the city. While a Hazard Mitigation Plan does exist, it needs to be continuously implemented and updated in order to remain effective.

Since Beverly Hills is not a major industrial area, the primary source of air pollutant is motor vehicles. Fortunately, these emissions can be reduced if residents take advantage of rideshare or other public forms of transportation. Also, by promoting mixed-use development in commercial areas, the amount of emissions from motor vehicles owned by residents would also be decreased, as stated in the report.

Nonetheless, as continued development occurs, the number of stationary air pollutant sources will also increase. According to the TBR, construction activities and boilers (that provide heat) will be the cause behind increased pollution. To regulate the amount of emissions released into the air, the South Coast Air Quality Management District, the agency primarily responsible for air pollution control, will rely on their New Source Review permitting procedures.

Throughout the years, Beverly Hills has become home to numerous amounts of historic resources. According to the National



*Beverly Hills City Hall at 450 North Crescent*

Register, six properties within the city are historic, including the Harold Lloyd Estate (also known as Greenacres), Regent Beverly Wilshire Hotel, the Anderton Court Shops, Virginia Robinson Gardens, Greystone Mansion and Park, and the Beverly Hills Post Office. Although not listed on the National Register, the Historic Resources Inventory lists an additional 35 residential and 14 commercial properties as having cultural or historical significance that make Beverly Hills one-of-a-kind.

Chapter 6 examines conditions pertaining to the health and safety of the community. The conditions range from geology and mineral resources, to seismic hazards and emergency preparedness. To reduce risk associated with seismic activity, the Beverly Hills Community Development Department Building and Safety enforces building codes and sets standards for design and construction. According to the California Building Code, all buildings that have at least one reinforced masonry bearing wall that must comply with the requirements of the program.

Also, as a result of increased paving within the city, after severe rainfall, there is more of a propensity for flooding to occur. Although there is generally little precipitation between May and October, an average of 17.3 inches of rain is measured each year. One type of flooding that can affect the city is “asphalt creep.” As streets continue to be resurfaced and new layers of asphalt are added, the street’s water-carrying capacity is reduced. Over time, the storm drain system becomes less effective. The city’s steep hillside areas are also more susceptible to runoff and slope failures. To combat this issue, these areas need to be more respectful of current grading, soil compaction, slope and grading regulations, the report stated.

Chapter 7 consists of the City of Beverly Hills Planning Issues Report and summarizes the key issues identified in previous chapters. By reviewing these issues, citizens can become more aware of the planning, goals, policies and programs that will affect them in the future.

The next phase for the TBR, according to Aluzri, is the development of preliminary goals and objectives for the General Plan update. The TBR can be found on the city’s website at [www.beverlyhills.org](http://www.beverlyhills.org).

# sports & scores



## BHS Girls' Soccer Team Finishes Second In Tournament

Norman boys' basketball team wins three of four games in Hawaii.

By Steven Herbert

After winning its previous two games on penalty kicks, Beverly Hills lost to undefeated Murrieta Vista Murrieta, 5-4, on penalty kicks last Thursday in the final of the Palm Desert girls' soccer tournament after regulation play ended in 1-1 tie.

Nikki Sharaf put the Normans (5-4-4) ahead with a goal in the 20th minute. The Broncos tied the score early in the second half of the 80-minute game.

Vista Murrieta was "out-playing us," with a wide margin in shots, Beverly Hills coach Ryan Franks said.

"We just kind of hung in there," Franks said. "They were definitely the more talented team."

The Normans have "come a long way since the beginning of the year," Franks said. "Defensively,

we've been really solid lately. We patched up a lot of holes on defense. Getting [sweeper] Tess Callner back has made a huge difference."

Callner had been sidelined early in the season because of an injured shin that became infected, Franks said.

"She's physical, she's fast and is covering up all our mistakes on defense," Franks said. The tournament helped "to develop confidence," Franks said.

"We're learning how to fight against a good team," Franks said. "Whether we have as much as much talent as them or not is not the question. It's whether we can compete against a team that's better than us. Now we know we can compete with anybody."

In other tournament games:

**Beverly Hills 3, Indio 0**

Rachel Kove, Rebecca Rosen and Ashely

Menzies scored and Rebecca Gold recorded the shutout for the Normans in a first-round game Dec. 27.

"We were able to move the ball around, create chances in the box," Franks said. "We were aggressive in the box."

**Beverly Hills 1, Laguna Beach 1**

**(Beverly Hills advances on penalty kicks, 4-3)**

Sharaf scored the tying goal on a 70th-minute penalty kick in the 80-minute game after the Breakers were called for a hand ball in the penalty area in a championship quarterfinal Dec. 28.

**Beverly Hills 0, Cathedral City 0**

**(Beverly Hills advances on penalty kicks, 2-1)**

Gold recorded her fourth shutout of season in a championship semifinal Dec. 28.

"It was a pretty wide open game and neither team could capitalize," Franks said. "Both teams had a ton of chances. It could have been 3-3 as easily as 0-0. Cathedral City had some really, really good attacking players that we were able to control and slow down."

**What's Next?**

The Normans are scheduled to play at Inglewood Wednesday at 3 p.m. in their Ocean League opener.

**Boys' Basketball**

**Maui Christmas Classic**

**Campbell Westmont 67, Beverly Hills 52**

The Normans trailed by one at halftime, but were outscored by 14 in the third quarter in a first-round game Dec. 19.

Beverly Hills was outscored 15-11 in the first quarter, but outscored the Warriors, 15-12 in the second quarter to trail 27-26 at halftime. The Normans were outscored 24-10 in the third quarter.

Both teams scored 16 points in the fourth quarter.

George Medrano scored 15 of his 17 points over the final three quarters for Beverly Hills. Cosmo Morabbi and Ben Smyth each added nine, Mahbod Zargar seven, Daniel Leisner five, Eric Lee and Julian Wheeler two each and Cliff Frazier one.

Smyth made two three-point baskets in the first quarter.

Jet lag and arriving two days before the start of the tournament contributed to the loss, Norman coach Luis Turcios said.

Beverly Hills made four of 13 free throws in the first half, four of five in the third quarter and six of eight in the third.

**Beverly Hills 86, Lahainaluna (Hawaii) 32**

The Normans outscored the Lunas 22-3 in the first quarter and 25-9 in the second to take a 47-12 halftime lead in a consolation quarterfinal Dec. 20.

Beverly Hills increased its lead to 73-23 entering the fourth quarter by outscoring Lahainaluna, 26-11, in the third quarter.

Medrano scored 22, all over the first three quarters. Morabbi and Smyth each added 11, Meyer Linter 10, Zargar nine, Amit Friedman eight, Leisner six, Lee and Wheeler three each, Dominique Sandifer two and Sherwin Batac one.

Smyth made three three-point baskets, Zargar two, while Lee, Medrano and Morabbi each made one.

*Steven Herbert also covers sports for the Los Angeles Times and The Associated Press. He welcomes feedback and suggestions. He can be reached by e-mail at StvHerbert@aol.com, by telephone at (310) 275-7943 or by fax at (310) 273-4519.*

*Advertisement*

## Do you need a loan?

If you are searching for the best home equity loan, ask these three questions:

**1) Will you guarantee the lowest rate in writing?** We promise the lowest rate in writing. We won't merely match your lowest rate. If we can't beat it-even after you've gone through the entire loan process with us- we will pay you \$250 just for applying with us.

**2) Will my interest rate increase, if I have a low credit score?** To other loan companies, you are just a faceless credit score. The lower your score, the higher your interest rates.

At Honey Mae Home Loans, we don't let a computer tell us what to do. We can give you a loan when others say no even if you have a low credit score.

**3) What are the chances my loan will be approved?** We approve 6 out of 7 applications. And some of these people have credit scores below 530. We can give you a quote over the phone, in complete privacy, without obligation-no matter your financial situation.

**1-800-700-1242 ext. 257**

Honey Mae Home Loans is licensed by the CA Department of Corporations.

# Reverse Mortgages

## GET THE FACTS

For home owners 62 and older  
Call 24 hrs for FREE Pre-Recorded Information

Licensed by the California Dept. of R.E. 01388968 **888-616-2748**

## NEW YEAR



Drive into the New Year with a new career. Schneider National has unlimited driving opportunities available, choose the one right for you!

- Experience rewarded but not required
- Company-provided CDL training for qualified candidates
- \$33,500-\$56,500 (depending on experience)
- Immediate benefits for experienced drivers

**Apply Online @ [schneiderjobs.com](http://schneiderjobs.com)**  
Or Call 1-800-44-PRIDE (1-800-447-7433)  
Sun. 11am-5pm (Central Time)


**SCHNEIDER NATIONAL**

**...for new opportunities.**

EQE M/F/D/V

## ZYPREXA® USERS

If you or a loved one have taken ZYPREXA® (Olanzapine) and now suffer from **Diabetes, Diabetic Coma, Ketoacidosis, Hyperglycemia, Pancreatitis or Death**, please call us today toll free at 1-877-746-4369 to discuss your legal rights.

  
**THE FOX LAW FIRM, P.C.**  
WWW.FOXLAWFIRM.COM

**1-877-RING-FOX**  
Principal Office—Dallas, Texas

Consult your physician before discontinuing any medication. Zyprexa® is a registered trademark of Eli Lilly and Company. Zyprexa has been approved by the FDA for its intended uses.

# Service Directory

Place your ad in the Beverly Hills Weekly's Service Directory for the low cost of \$250 for 10 weeks! 310 887-0788

## ANGEL TOUCH

**ANGEL TOUCH**  
HEALTH AIDE AGENCY  
CNA's, Caregivers, Sitters,  
Companion Bedside,  
One-on-One Services  
Home/Hospital Care  
*Insured/Bonded*  
**CALL (818) 508-6858**

## BEST MORTGAGE

**BEST MORTGAGE**  
Best Mortgage Connection Inc,  
of Beverly Hills  
Good Credit, Bad Credit,  
Even Bankruptcy.  
Call us, and we will be  
your mortgage broker for life.  
**310-271-1200**

## BOTOX

**BOTOX**  
**LOOK YOUNGER!**  
Experienced.  
Board Certified Physician  
(M.D.)  
Guaranteed  
Lowest Price  
**(310) 453-0033**

## CARPET CLEANING

**I Work With You**  
Carpet Cleaning  
Upholstery - Carpet Cleaning - High Pressure Cleaning  
Pet Order - Control Water Damage



**Holiday Special \$59.95**  
• Free Conditioning • Free Carpet Grooming • Free Vacuuming  
www.iworkwithyoucarpetcleaning.com  
**(866) 263-1020**

## CHIROPRACTOR

Dr. Babak Naghi D.C.  
Chiropractor  
• Neck pain  
• Back pain  
• Headaches  
**"GET OUT OF PAIN QUICKLY"**  
Located in Beverly Hills  
**(323) 377-5237**



## CLEANING

**JANITORIAL & CLEANING**  
We Clean Your Salon,  
Boutique, House Or Building  
From The Bottom To the  
Top And You Enjoy It.  
**310.289.1404**  
Fair Prices  
Free Estimate  
Convenient Schedule  
Licensed/Bonded/Insured  
Crystal Clean, Inc  
vberlin@socal.rr.com



## CONTRACTORS

**Adam Salazar**  
Construction Co., Inc.  
Home Improvement Contractor  
Remodeling & Room Additions  
Commercial/Residential  
Concrete Work • Retaining Walls  
Foundations • Tile Work  
**(310) 836-3646 Office**  
CA Lic #788671 **(310) 841- 5078 Fax**



## CONTRACTORS

**DLF-BUILDERS**  
• Room additions • Bathroom  
Remodeling • Kitchen Remodeling  
• Finish Carpentry • Doors • Windows  
• Decks • Tiles • Plans  
**25 years experience**  
Call **DAVID**  
**(310) 770-3022**  
Lic# 612380

## CREDIT

**BAD CREDIT REPORT?**  
Denied Credit or A Home  
Loan?  
Improve your Credit  
Score **NOW!**  
**BAD CREDIT REPORT?**  
**800-250-3252**

## DISCOUNT HAULING

**ALL CITIES**  
DISCOUNT HAULING AND DEMOLITION  
• Interior Demolition • Concrete Demolition  
• Real Estate Clean-Out • Hillside, Yard & Lot Clearing  
• Construction Site Clean-Up • Home & Business Clean-Outs  
• Trash and Drebris Removal • Bulky Item Pick Up Service  
• ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING  
• Call for Your FREE Estimates  
**Direct Dispatch:**  
**818-201-7079 • 661-212-6200 • 310-365-6606**  
**WWW.ALLCITIESHAULING.COM**



## ELDERLY CARE

*Excellent Care Provider*  
Live-in/Live-out Compassionate,  
Reliable,  
Caregiver, Affordable  
& Fully Screened  
**Tel: 310-592-7862,**  
**626-457-5912**

## ELECTRICAL

**QUALITY** Residential & Commercial  
Since 1988  
**ELECTRICAL WORK**  
Recessed Lights • Trouble Shooting  
Kitchens & Baths • Panel Upgrades  
& much more  
-SPECIAL RATES FOR PROPERTY MANAGEMENT-  
**GREAT PRICES!**  
**ELECTRON ELECTRIC**  
**310-828-7707**  
2846 Colorado Ave • Santa Monica  
www.electronelectric.com

## FINE ART

**CONSERVATION OF FINE ART**  
(PAINTINGS & WORK ON PAPER)  
INCLUDING REALIGNMENT,  
TOUCH-UP, TEARS, CLEANING &  
STABILIZATION  
**30 YEARS EXPERIENCE**  
MEMBER A.I.C., WASHINGTON D.C.  
Please call  
**(323) 733-8792**

## FIREWOOD

### HOLIDAY FIREWOOD

WWW.HOLIDAYFIREWOOD.COM

HARDWOODS MEDIUM WOOD  
-OAK -ENGLISH WALNUT  
-EUCALYPLUS -UTAH SPACE JUNIPER (CEDAR/FRAGRANCE)  
- ASK ABOUT OUR WEEKLY SPECIALS

ALL WOODS ARE SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY, SO CALL TODAY FOR PREFERRED DELIVERY DATE  
AND SPECIAL SAVINGS. **(800) 564-3535**. ASK ABOUT FREE DELIVERY AND STACKING.

\*WE ACCEPT ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS.



## GARDENING

**Westside**  
Gardening Services  
For Exclusive Homes and Estates  
• Experienced and Reliable  
• Residential and Commercial  
• Weekly or Bi-Weekly Maintenance  
• Tree Work and Clean Up Jobs  
• Attention to Detail  
**FREE ESTIMATES**  
David Yamamoto  
**(310) 578-9907**

## HAULING

**Need to Haul call M.O**  
• General Hauling  
• Construction clean -up  
• Garage clean-up  
• Furniture  
• Appliances  
**Best rate you can find.**  
Free Estimates  
Call:  
**(818) 312-7715**



## HOLISTIC BODY WORK

INTEGRATION OF BODY, MIND, SPIRIT  
STRUCTURAL INTEGRATION

• Effective • Compassionate  
• Educational

Joan Wolfred GG, SIP,  
Certified Rolf Practitioner  
of Structural Integration  
**310-927-2771**  
337 S. Beverly Dr. #108  
Beverly Hills  
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY



## HOME CARE

**NEED HELP?**  
*WE UNDERSTAND...*  
"Mama's caregivers, CNA's and companions,  
are loving, caring, trained, & Bonded. Live in  
or out. Fully Screened."  
**Mama's Home Care**  
**(323) 655-2622**

