

Beverly Hills Weekly

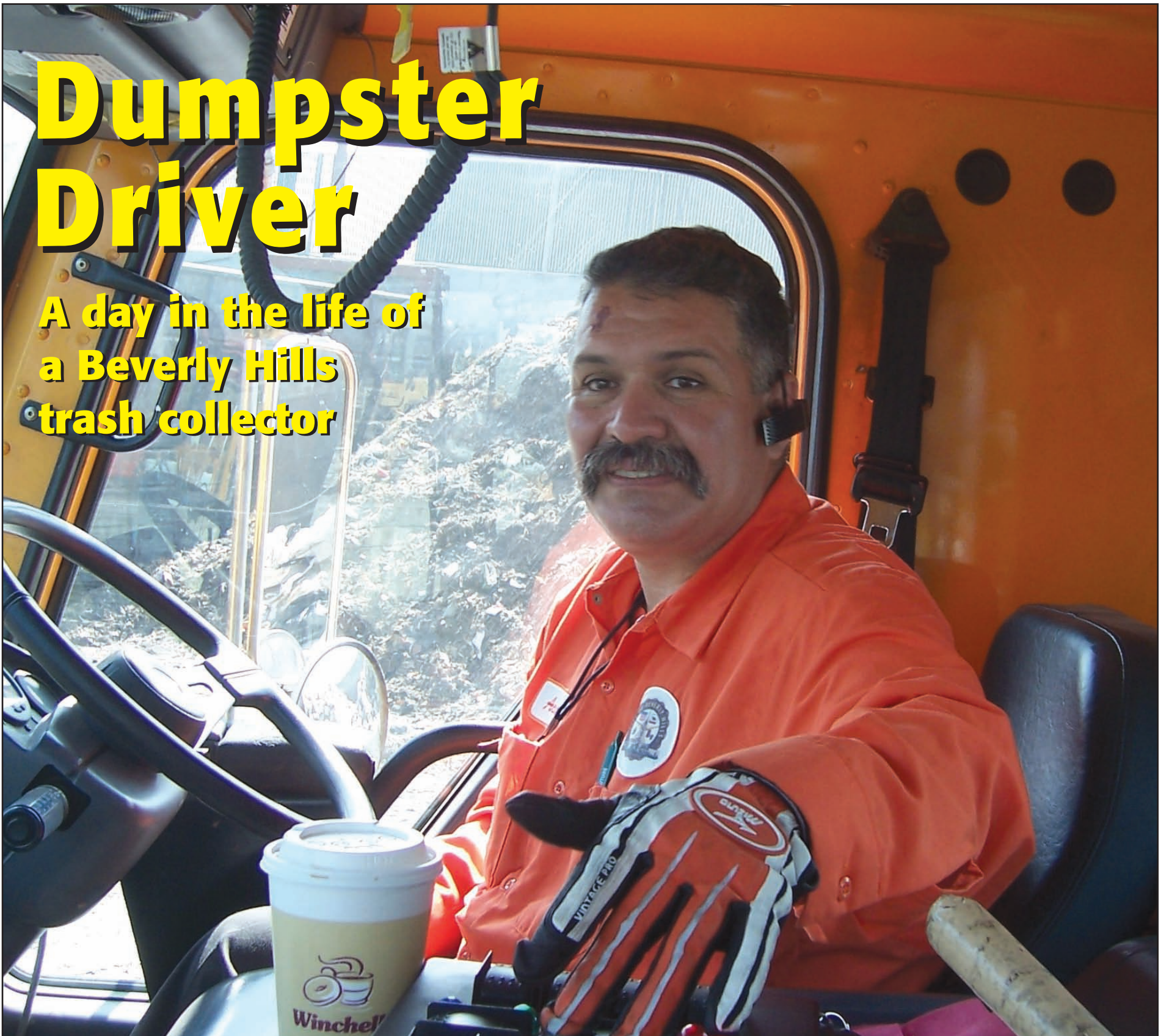
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Issue 465 • August 28 - September 3, 2008

Dumpster Driver

A day in the life of
a Beverly Hills
trash collector



cover story • page 10



letters & email

“Is the \$334 Million School Bond a Blank Check?” [Issue #464]

The Weekly’s \$334 million bond article supports one board members belief that we all need “to take the time and do our homework.” Rushing to place the measure on the November ballot was unwise and was, in fact, unnecessary. Three board members preferred a March date to coincide with the local City Council election. They should have stood their ground. Prop 39 allows, but does not require, a board of education to set the 55% threshold as long as 2/3s of the board approves. Otherwise, two-thirds 66.7% of the voters are required to pass a bond. By forcing a November election, the board has shown little faith that the electorate will, again, approve a bond by greater than the 66.7% majority as it has done for prior measures!

If the deed cannot be undone, then we move on to the realities of the measure, which are many and lack detail.

Notwithstanding any need to implement seismic upgrades in order to maintain and increase safety for our children, one thing stood out in my mind as I read the partial list of projects (Weekly, page 9) . How are all these parking lots, lobbies, “Facelifts,” new

public entries, and many other items going to increase student achievement and test scores?

Before any bond measures are placed on the ballot, the board and community should determine the highest and best use for the District Office property (Lasky Dr.) and the Beverly Vista parking lot on Gregory. The utilization of these to valuable assets have been the subject of discussion for many years. Thanks to Fenton for bring the topic back to the table. Revenues could be generated by these properties and could be used to off-set the size of future capital expenditures (aka “bonds”).

A corollary to the above topic is why \$10 million is being allocated for the Annex building? Throw a 2 x 4 at me, but wouldn’t be better to build a new building or wait until a decision is made about the future if the board property. And why are we segregating students to that building anyway? (“Non-BHHS students will be off HS campus”)

Instead of building more parking lots, let’s build bike racks! Kids get exercise and reduce their “carbon footprint!” Encourage car pooling. Provide an AM & PM student shuttle running along such street as Gregory, Carmelita and Beverly drive.

Contact a board member and ask them to rescind the November date. Separate the seismic upgrades from the other modernization. Let the community vote on two bonds, seismic and everything else. Provide more detail. We live in the electronic age, so information can be made available in many forms very easily.

As [former Board of Education member] Gerald Lunn points out, Measure K left many unfulfilled promised projects! It could

happen again.

Respectfully to all of my friends who support Measure E in its present form.

*Craig Davis
Beverly Hills*

“Remembering Jerry Lushing” [Issue #464]

In your obituary of Jerry Lushing, who was a wonderful person, there was a comment that he joined the U.S. Air Force and “At his peak, he ranked as a Corporal.” If that was his description of his military career at least he had a sense of humor about it.

*Herbert L. Wallerstein
Beverly Hills*

WHAT’S ON YOUR MIND?

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SNAPSHOT

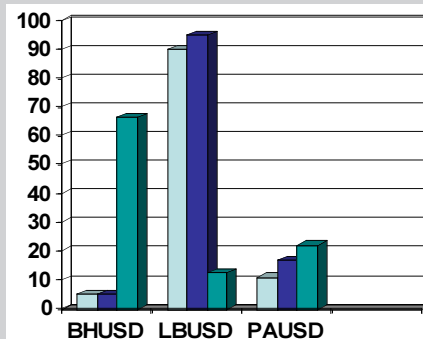


SPEED RACER
CARSON, CALIFORNIA

Beverly High senior Kit Karzen finished first, third and fifth in individual races and second in two team races in the USA Cycling Junior Track National Championships at the ADT Event Center Velodrome in Carson. [See story page 8]

Correction, Issue #464: In “Is the \$334 Million School Bond a Blank Check?” the total student population of BHUSD should have read 5,300, not 53,000. The corrected graph should look like the following:

Comparative Districts’ Bonds



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Board of Education Tackles Busy Agenda

McVeigh's contract extension tabled, bond discussion continued

By Jacquelyn Ryan

Discussion about BHUSD Superintendent Kari McVeigh's contract extension was tabled as one of the first of a long list of agenda items the Board of Education debated at Tuesday's meeting in Beverly High's Salter Family Theatre.

McVeigh's contract extension had been tabled once before in November 2007 before incoming Board members Steven Fenton and Brian Goldberg officially assumed their roles but after they had been elected. In the end, the Board postponed the discussion until Goldberg and Fenton could be included.

Tuesday night, the Board agreed to discuss McVeigh's contract in January 2009. McVeigh's current contract expires Sept. 30, 2009.

The superintendent's was not the only salary in discussion at the meeting. Beverly Hills Education Association president Chris Bushée pressed the board to work diligently toward ending negotiations in connection BHUSD teacher's salary contracts during public comment period.

When BHUSD teachers begin working this week, they will be receiving the same pay they received in June 2006, said

Bushée. He argued that BHUSD has the second highest funding per pupil in the state, and the district should aim to have the second highest salaried teachers in the state. Bushée added that some California districts pay their teachers \$20,000 more annually than BHUSD.

Several Horace Mann parents also addressed the Board to express their opposition to a portion of city's draft General Plan that includes the possibility of rezoning 200 feet of the Horace Mann campus to allow for commercial building. Parents called the rezoning a "wrong-headed approach" and argued that Horace Mann already has the least square-footage of all the schools in the district. Board member Myra Lurie said the rezoning is not part of the district's plan for the school, at the end of the meeting.

In fact, the rezoning of Horace Mann is not included in the BHUSD Master Plan, which was unanimously approved by the Board at the meeting. The Master Plan is a "living document" that outlines the improvements and projects the district aims to complete in its future, as Board President Myra Demeter explained.

Karen Christiansen, head of BHUSD's



contracted project management firm Strategic Concepts, answered questions about how the Master Plan was formulated and explained that the plan is conceptual and open to changes and modifications as the district grows.

Christiansen also answered questions about performing another more in-depth seismic study on the four K-8 schools in the district, an agenda item that was unanimously approved. The study will cost the district over \$135,000.

Board members Nooshin Meshkaty, Brian Goldberg and Steven Fenton were concerned because a seismic evaluation of the schools was performed last year. The Board used results of that evaluation to determine the need for the \$334 million general obligation bond, Measure E, which will be on the November ballot.

Fenton told Christiansen he was disappointed all of this information wasn't pre-

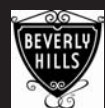
sented before he approved the bond and requested all information be thoroughly explained to the Board henceforward.

Lurie then challenged Fenton that the Board was not presenting a united front and was focusing on negative items while the Board should be focusing on the positive to ensure the bond will pass in November.

Fenton immediately took issue with the idea that "sweeping things under the carpet" for the sake of passing the bond was a appropriate, arguing that as a public servant he feels he should "level with the community" on all issues, good or bad.

Meshkaty supported Fenton as she explained that she raises questions in public meetings so that the community is informed, not necessarily because she doesn't know the answer.

city and schools cont. on page 7



NOTICE OF COMMISSION VACANCY

FINE ART COMMISSION

The Beverly Hills City Council is seeking qualified residents to fill one upcoming vacancy on the Fine Art Commission. The initial term of office is for two years. At the discretion of the City Council, the Commissioner may be reappointed to a second term of four years. Each appointee will be required to file an initial and an annual "Statement of Economic Interests" financial disclosure.

In order that we may preserve the integrity of the application and interview process, please direct all inquiries to the City Clerk, City Manager or the Director of Community Services. Please DO NOT contact the City Councilmembers or members of the Fine Art Commission regarding the Fine Art Commission vacancy.

Application forms for the Fine Art Commission, along with a description of the duties of a Commissioner, and filing details are available for pickup in the City Clerk's Office, Room 190, 455 N. Rexford Drive, or call 310.285.2400 to receive an application and information by mail or by e-mail.

The deadline for filing applications for this Commission is Friday, October 3, 2008 at 5:00 p.m.

BYRON POPE, CMC
City Clerk



REVISED NOTICE OF COMMISSION VACANCY

PLANNING COMMISSION

PLEASE NOTE REVISED DEADLINE DATE TO FILE APPLICATION:
SEPTEMBER 30, 2008

The Beverly Hills City Council is seeking qualified residents to fill one upcoming vacancy on the Planning Commission. The initial term of office for the position is two years. At the discretion of the City Council, the Commissioner may be reappointed to a second term of four years. The appointee will be required to file an initial and an annual "Statement of Economic Interests" financial disclosure.

In order that we may preserve the integrity of the application and interview process, please direct all inquiries to the City Clerk, City Manager or the Director of Community Development. Please DO NOT contact the City Councilmembers or the members of the Planning Commission regarding the vacancy.

Application forms for the Planning Commission, along with a description of the duties of a Commissioner, and filing details are available for pickup in the City Clerk's Office, Room 190, 455 N. Rexford Drive, or call 310.285.2400 to receive an application and information by mail or by email.

The deadline for filing applications for this Commission is Tuesday, September 30, 2008, at 5:30 p.m.

BYRON POPE, CMC
City Clerk

briefs

Beverly Hills distressed by Century City Doctors Hospital closure

Beverly Hills residents will lose a primary emergency room and hospital on Saturday when Century City Doctors Hospital closes its doors for the final time. Hospital executives filed Chapter 7 bankruptcy protection last Friday.

The hospital, owned by Beverly Hills-based Salus Surgical Group, is estimated to have a debt of more than \$60 million, according to the Los Angeles Times.

The emergency room was closed on Friday and the remaining patients were moved to other hospitals, according to a hospital insider who did not want to be named.

Century City Doctors Hospital generally fell third on the list of hospitals to bring patients during emergencies because it is not a trauma center and did not have a CAT center for heart attack victims, according to Beverly Hills Fire Department spokesperson Mark Embrey.

"The bottom line effect is that there are now fewer emergency room beds available in the area. [If] it's busy in terms of lots of people being injured or if we had a major disaster, there is going to be a negative impact," said Embrey. "But we will

deal with it, as we have to."

Embrey said Beverly Hills emergency paramedics typically use Cedars-Siani Hospital and UCLA Medical Center as their main ERs because both have trauma centers. However, Century City Doctors Hospital offered closer and sometimes quicker service to patients who did not need trauma care.

Beverly Hills city employees who are injured on the job were previously taken to Century City Doctors Hospital, according to a city spokesperson. City employees will now be taken to Cedars-Sinai Hospital.

"I'm very sad about the ER. It breaks my heart to not have an ER on the Westside of town, especially for very small things like a child having an ear ache in the middle of the night. It's nice not to have to go to Cedars or UCLA. But I just don't think you can have an ER that's not fully operative. You have to be able to do invasive procedures," said former Century City Chamber of Commerce board member Judie Fenton, who was on hospital's board of directors before it was taken over by Salus.

The Century City Doctors Hospital closed while it was being remodeled in mid-2000s. At that time, Beverly Hills paramedics transported patients to Cedars and UCLA Medical Center as well. Embrey said that occasional overcrowding at those hospitals and other factors sometimes absorbed extra hours of the



Beverly Hills receives grant for UNITE program

Beverly Hills Police Officer Julian Reyes stands with the one of the department's fixed site automated license plate recognition system.

The City of Beverly Hills has been formally awarded an \$849,631 congressionally mandated grant for the UNITE program. This three-year grant is the direct result of the congressional earmark that was supported by Congressman Waxman. It will fund the following UNITE components: Data Integration and Data Sharing (DIDS) Web-based Portal; Mobile Advanced Technology Control Center (MATCC); and Fixed Site Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR) Systems.

paramedics' time and put a small strain on Beverly Hills' emergency services.

But Embrey stressed that Beverly Hills has adequate ambulances and paramedics for the Beverly Hills population and call on Los Angeles County or City for extra help if needed.

Cedars-Sinai is not anticipating any significant strain on its staff or facilities, according to Joel Geiderman, co-chairman of the emergency department at Cedars-Sinai and the medical director for the Beverly Hills Fire Department

"The Century City [ER] was seeing a low volume of patients, probably 25 to 30 patients a day. [Cedars-Sinai] sees about 215 patients a day. So the number of new patients will be relatively small," said Geiderman.

Cedars is planning a 25 percent expansion of its current space to include an extra 10 to 11 inpatient beds, with construction beginning in July if all goes according to plan, said Geiderman.

"The closing of the emergency is a problem for the residents of Beverly Hills and surrounding areas simply because there is now one less emergency room available and emergency personell now have one less option to take a patient," said former mayor Steve Webb. "There are only so many beds and so many doctors and even if there was a segment [of patients] that wouldn't have gone to century city anyway, there's still a segment that would and now they are limited."

Calls to Century City Doctors Hospital were met with hang-ups by operators.



Mattel wins \$100 million in Bratz Doll case

A months-long federal trial in Riverside that posed Bratz Dolls creator MGA Entertainment Inc., and its CEO Isaac

Larian against Barbie creator Mattel Inc., ended Tuesday when the jury awarded Mattel \$100 million in damages for copyright infringement and contract interfer-

ence, according to media accounts.

"Mattel had originally asked for \$2 billion so this is a great victory for MGA," said spokesperson for MGA David Silver.

However, MGA has appealed the amount of the damages, arguing that the total awards were duplicative. In a press release, an MGA representative said the total award will only total \$20 million. U.S. District Judge Stephen Larson, presiding judge for the case, will rule on that issue this week.

"We are pleased to have this trial behind us," said Isaac Larian, CEO of MGA Entertainment. "We can now concentrate all of our energies on what we do best - providing dolls and other toys that are the consumers' first choice."

The jury found last month that the Bratz Dolls were conceived while Larian's partner Carter Bryant worked for Mattel. Since Bryant sold the idea to MGA, the jury found Carter breached his intellectual property contract with Mattel.

However, Judge Larson instructed the jury to only consider the first round of Bratz Dolls that were released in 2001, not the following dolls, movies and merchandise.

In the final days of the trial, MGA's lawyer argued the jury should award Mattel only \$30 million since the 'first-generation' dolls were the only dolls in consideration. The first Bratz Dolls only made \$4 million in profits, according to MGA.

"Mattel has pursued this case first and foremost as a matter of principle," said CEO and chairman of Mattel Robert A. Eckert in a prepared statement. "We have an obligation to defend ourselves against competitors who choose to engage in fraudulent activities against us. We're pleased that the jury agreed with Mattel that what MGA did was wrong and that damages were awarded."

Larian's lawyer Thomas Nolan was not available for comment by press time.

Safe Rides for Normans still alive

The death of a 25-year-old recently in a drunk-driving accident last month



Beverly Hills Education Foundation presents CLASSICS FOR CHARITY XV



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**El Rodeo
Class of 1974
Reunion**

El Rodeo graduates gathered for their 34th class reunion on Friday, Aug. 22 at a private residence on Rodeo Drive.



Diana Isaacs, Mike Richman, Alex Schroeder, Aaron Schechter, Greg Nelson, Andy Isenberg, Larry Lotwin and Joanna Stingray



El Rodeo retired faculty: Jacquie Killam, former principal Frank Scott, Tom Garnella, Steve Fisher, Bob Craig



Ketty Bergum and Alicia Saver

reminded many Beverly Hills residents of the dangers of drinking and driving.

The Maple Counseling Center encourages students to decide not to drive if they've been intoxicated by offering Beverly Hills students free confidential transportation to anywhere they need to go within Beverly Hills city limits. The program specifically targets Friday and Saturday nights between 10 p.m. and 2 a.m. but rides are available anytime they are truly needed, according to a spokesperson for The Maple Counseling Center.

Established in 1995, the Safe Rides program is provided in conjunction with Beverly Hills Cab, which underwrites the program. The Maple Center provides administrative services.

A Beverly Hills student simply needs to call the toll-free number, identify themselves as a student and their location and an intern from the Maple Center will ensure a cab will be there to pick the student up within a few minutes. The driver will not disclose the student's identity to parents or teachers.

There have been almost 100 calls for this service within the first six months of this year, according to statistics from the Maple Center. Fifty students used the service in 2007.

If avoiding an accident weren't enough motivation to stay out from behind the wheel, the Beverly Hills Police recently announced that they have increased their DUI arrests by 10 percent already this year over last year.

For a free confidential "Safe Ride," call (888) 654-3211.

Mayor Brucker gives State of City address



Beverly Hills Mayor Barry Brucker was scheduled to give the State of the City address at Greystone Park

Wednesday night to an audience of city officials, Chamber of Commerce members and residents.

The city is "solid financial shape," Brucker wrote in his speech, which was intended to touch on three major topics: spirit, service and success.

STAR 2008 testing results low for Beverly High

Compared to other schools in the Beverly Hills Unified School District, Beverly High had the lowest average scores on the California Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) 2008, based on results that came in this month.

With the exception of general mathematics test for eighth graders at Beverly Vista and Hawthorne, no more than 13 percent of any elementary school class scored below basic or far below basic in any of the seven test subjects. However, Beverly High consistently had high percentages in each grade score below or far below basic in the 15 test subjects.

For example, 70 percent of 11th graders

scored below or far below basic in geometry. Of the 30 11th graders who took the world history test, 89 percent scored far below basic.

However, the high school scored well in English-language arts with 78 percent of ninth-graders, 71 percent of tenth-graders and 59 percent of eleventh-graders receiving proficient or advanced scores.

Beverly Vista held very high scores for English-language arts in grades two through eight, with between 88 and 96 percent of all classes scoring basic or above. Though, 25 percent of eighth-graders scored below or far below basic in General Mathematics.

El Rodeo seventh graders did well in English-language arts, with 59 percent receiving advanced scores. However, 13 percent of sixth-graders fell below basic in mathematics.

Seventy-one percent of Hawthorne's eighth-graders received advanced scores in life science and 68 percent of fourth graders were advanced in mathematics.

Despite their science scores, eighth graders didn't do as well in mathematics, with 38 percent falling below or far below basic.

Horace Mann second- through seventh-grade students performed strongly in mathematics, with at least 33 percent of each class receiving an advanced score. Horace Mann eighth graders didn't do as well, with only 10 percent advanced scores and 19 percent below or far below basic.

All test results can be found on the California Department of Education Web site.

New library programs help kids with homework

With school starting next week, the Beverly Hills Public Library is offering new programs aimed at helping students study.

The Homework Center program, designed for elementary and middle

briefs cont. on page 7

ARASH INTERIORS




ENLIGHTENED LIVING: " I CREATE SPACES TO ENHANCE THE HARMONY OF SPIRIT, BODY AND SOUL BY CAPTURING THE ESSENCE OF MY CLIENT'S DESIRE'S, INTEREST'S AND PERSONALITY. "

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from the hills of beverly



Hilton Names First Woman GM

And notes on politics and coffee
By Rudy Cole

Barack Obama could have made history by making it possible for a woman to become our first vice president, but at least the Beverly Hilton has pierced that ceiling by becoming the first major hotel in our city to name a female general manager.

This month, Beverly Hilton owner **Beny Alagem** chose **Sandy Murphy** to replace **Denny Fitzpatrick** who returned to his home in the Pacific Northwest.

Murphy has had 25 years experience in the hospitality industry. She is very affable and told us she is eager to carry on the tradition of Hilton managers being involved in the civic, cultural and philanthropic life of the community.

Her most recent assignments were as Hilton Corporation area vice president for Southern California. Before that, she had a similar position in Northern California where she supervised 18 Hilton properties.

The Beverly Hilton, owned by Alagem and his company, Oasis West, has returned to Hilton management. Under former owner **Merv Griffin**, the hotel carried the Hilton flag, but did not provide management services. Together, they have added another Mobil star to the Hilton banner – for the first time in its history it is a four star property.

Hotels are a male dominated profession, in and out of Beverly Hills, but

Murphy's appointment should also give encouragement to her colleagues – that there is a gender free chance of becoming the boss.

As for Obama not picking **Hillary** for the "dream team" the whole process seemed clumsy and self-destructive. Obvious question is why Hillary didn't have her moment with Obama to tell their supporters she was not going to be his choice before picking **Joe Biden**.

There is one unlikely scenario: Hillary was consulted, did know early on that she would not be Obama's choice and opted not to go all that quietly.

Otherwise, what the Obama people did, and no matter how much of a love fest the convention provides, this was not the party's finest moment.

Although I still feel Hillary would have strengthened the ticket and helped win states she carried during the primaries, the choice of Joe Biden will be a plus for Obama. There is no pretense about Biden, no subtle meanings in what he believes – he carries it all out there very honestly and openly. He does have credentials in Obama's weak areas – defense and foreign affairs and has always been one of Israel's best friends in the Senate.

The Biden Beverly Hills connection is very strong and mainly because of his

long time supporters **Janet** and former Mayor **Max Salter**. They first met Biden when their son **Michael**, then a student in a Delaware university, was a very youthful volunteer in the equally young Biden's first run for United States Senate.

It didn't take Biden long to tap the fund raising abilities and generosity of the Salter's and he has made their North Linden Drive home a venue for countless events.

Mayor Max, a proud member of the Nixon enemies list, may yet become Ambassador Max. Can you imagine the good will of any country that samples Janet's chicken soup?

Even when you don't agree with him, and we frequently don't, you have to admire Mayor **Barry Brucker**'s political skills. He took the majority of the council with him on his campaign to take the first steps to separate the Conference and Visitor's Bureau from the Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce.

Not quite a done deal, but remarkable nevertheless. Technically, the decision is really not up to the council. They can vote to have the two organizations split, but the council's power only lies, and that only is a killer for the Chamber, to withhold city funds for both the CVB and the Chamber unless they follow the council's recommendation.

Both the CVB and the Chamber are independent. However, they could not operate as they do without the big bucks the city allocates for promotion of tourism, economic development – which means attracting new businesses and keeping them here.

The funding for tourism promotion is

not really something the council can avoid. A voter approved transient occupancy tax specifies that much of this revenue be set aside for tourist advertising – for years a chore of the Chamber and its CVB.

The city's hotels act as collection vehicles of the TOT and should have a continuing role in how the money is spent. Brucker, and his fellow sub-committee member Council member **Linda Briskman**, will soon suggest a committee to oversee the likely transition. Hotel gms will play a major role in coming up with recommendations. The likely chair, and it would be a wise choice, is new Peninsula managing director **Offer Nissenbaum**. Relatively new to Beverly Hills, Offer has no scars of past conflicts, is highly regarded by his colleagues and has broad experience in the hospitality industry.

There are some historical precedents: Some years back, the city created an independent marketing committee. This too was a move to separate the Chamber from tourist promotion. However, when it became clear the Chamber would lose some of its city support money, the then Chamber went ballistic. The council caved, and eliminated the Marketing Committee.

Some former councilmembers claim the Marketing Committee did not prove effective, but the reality is it never had enough time to show what it could do. It did have star power: the founders included such icons as **Fred Hayman**, **Richard Rosenzweig**, **Jerry Magnin**, the then Peninsula gm now managing director of the soon to open Montage **Ali Kasikci** and the Beverly Wilshire's **Peter O'Colmain**.

Councilmember **Nancy Krasne** may have had a Solomon like idea: Separate the two organizations but make the current chamber ceo **Dan Walsh** head of both.

There is one aspect of a possible end of funding for the Chamber: It could become truly independent and not an arm of city government. Often, the Chamber seems very cautious in fighting city hall – not really willing to bite the hand that controls the feeding.

Although I have reservations about the effort to separate the two agencies, I think Brucker is doing what he feels is in the city's best interests. However, when the final decision is made, there will be a new mayor.

We will see which comes first: the opening of the Montage Beverly Hills or the remodeled ground floor of city hall? Reports have the hotel booking events for later this fall and City Manager ready to make important changes in how people who come to the city for service are served.

No question, we have one of the finest, customer sensitive group of staffers to be found anywhere. Visitors with business at city hall are always amazed at how sensitive staff is to their needs, and that runs through almost every city agency.

What will be improved is the direct, open contact that the physical conditions

Le Magnifique

High-End Jewelry & Loose diamond TRUNK SHOW

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*opposite to "camden house"

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at city hall inhibited. Look for easier access, greater availability of city workers and an even friendlier kind of service.

Congratulations to our protective services for recently receiving a near \$1 million federal grant to improve city security and safety.

Our financial partners, the city's hotels are doing extremely well despite the down turn in the economy. We are still playing host to visitors from Europe and Asia in almost record numbers and Rodeo Drive is also a very busy street.

New opening worth trying: The famous Belgian chocolate, Leonidas, has a new and beautiful venue on South Beverly, in the Four Corners. It is clearly one of the most attractive new shops to open here in years. Aside from a variety of chocolate offerings, the shop also serves coffee early in the a.m. and all day with some good treats. But the interior design alone makes a stop enjoyable.

The four identical buildings at Charleville and Beverly were created by the late former silent film star **Corrine Griffith**. She was a strong advocate for recognition of South Beverly Drive and her four buildings, but even she would be amazed at what Leonidas has brought to the city.

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

city and schools cont. from page 3

The board also unanimously approved going out for bids (request for qualifications and request for proposals) for a "master architect" for the bond project. Dougherty and Dougherty Architects were the recent architects for the school district. Many board members agreed that the company would be an excellent choice again but wanted to ensure they send "the right message" to the community by evaluating multiple companies.

The board unanimously approved establishing an oversight committee to identify projects for the Measure E bond.

briefs cont. on from page 5

school students, will provide eleven fully-equipped computers with filtered Internet access capabilities for students to research information; write papers, and work on eighth-grade standardized test taking skills. The Homework Center will be open during the Library's regular hours.

The Out-of-School-Time Online Homework Help Program, largely funded by a grant from the California State Library and administered by Tutor.com, provides Web-based one-on-one homework help in math, science, English and social studies. The program runs every-one everyday from 1 to 10 p.m.

The Teen Zone is aimed at for sixth through 12th graders and will feature a large screen TV, gaming systems (PS3, Wii, and Xbox), laptops, PCs, Macs and a

The board has approximately three weeks to find nominees.

Lurie said she wanted to "set the record straight" that many of the district's schools bathrooms had been renovated with Measure K money, referencing the Beverly Hills Weekly's recent cover story "Is the \$334 Million School Bond a Blank Check?" [Issue #464]. Though some of the bathrooms only received aesthetic renovations due to building code or construction constraints, Lurie said it was simply not true to say that the bathrooms were not completed under Measure K.

Fenton submitted a project he called the "Parent Ambassador" project, which

would "streamline" the school tour process. Fenton said he felt it was important to create a system in which potential BHUSD parents could take tours of the different campuses from parents of current students in the district. Current tours are set up in clusters and are not always available. Fenton believes a parent ambassador program would help "seal the deal" in bringing more students into BHUSD.

Daniel Yosef, a student at Beverly High, joined the panel as the new student member of the Board of Education.

The next Board of Education meeting will be held Sept. 9.

DVD player. Teens will be able to relax in denim lounge chair rockers and sofas.

The Teen Zone is open Monday through Thursday 3:30 to 8:30 p.m., Friday 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Saturday 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Sunday 12:00 noon to 4:30 p.m.

To use any program, students must have a Beverly Hills Public Library card in their name.

"30 Years After" Summer Poolside Mixer

"30 Years After" held a Summer Poolside Mixer on Aug. 17 at a private home in Tarzana's Silver Hawk Ridge. About 250 young professionals and community leaders attended, speakers included chief planning deputy for Los Angeles City Councilmember Dennis Zine Jonathan Brand, Beverly Hills Board of

Education member Steven Fenton, and Beverly Hills Weekly publisher Josh Gross.

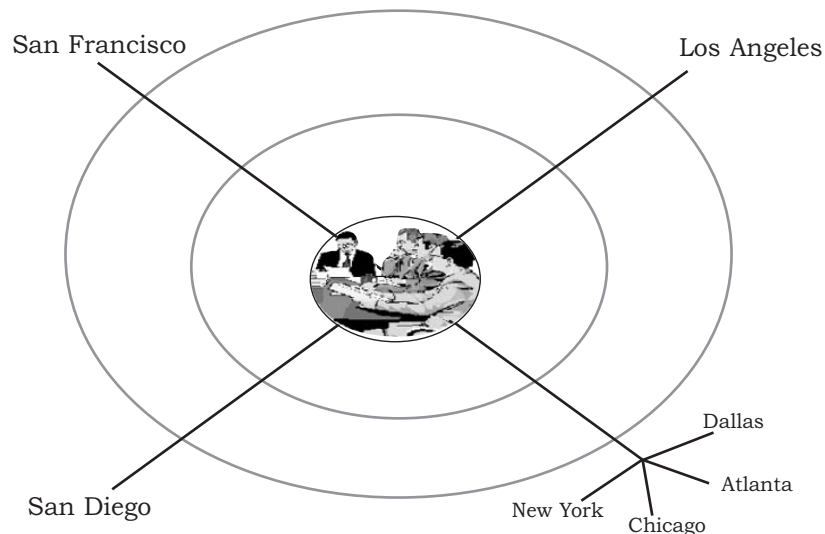


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Paysinger Pleased With Norman Football Team's Early Practice Performance

BHHS alumnus returns to tennis' U.S. Open.
By Steven Herbert

The initial practice sessions for the Beverly High football team have "gone well," coach Carter Paysinger said Monday.

The Normans began fall practice last Thursday, starting a 10-day period Paysinger described as a "vital" and will have an impact on its entire season.

"Things that you install during two-a-days are what you do for the rest of the season," said Paysinger, who is beginning his 19th season as the Normans' coach. "Anything new that we might do during the season will all come off what we do."

The first priority for the period is to "get back into football shape, meaning hitting and tackling and wearing the gear and the heat," Paysinger said.

The initial fall practice period is the first time since last season the players

have participated in contact drills, Paysinger said.

The Normans are scheduled to open their season Sept. 6 against Marshfield (Mass.) at Nickoll Field.

Professional Tennis

Riza Zalameda, a 2004 Beverly High graduate, is expected to play a first-round women's doubles match at the U.S. Open today in New York City against Arantxa Parra Santonja and Carla Suarez Navarro, both from Spain.

Zalameda and partner Tracy Lin earned a wild card berth into the women's doubles draw by winning the NCAA women's doubles championship May 26.

The match will be Zalameda's third women's doubles match in the U.S. Open. She lost in 2003 and 2004 with partners

Anne Yelsey and Audra Cohen after receiving wild card berths by winning the U.S. Tennis Association's girls' 18 and under doubles championship.

"It's a great feeling to be back here," Zalameda said. "I know what to expect here. I'm a lot more experienced."

Zalameda was to play a first-round mixed doubles match with partner Kaes Van't Hof Wednesday after the Beverly Hills Weekly's deadline against Vladimira Uhlirova and Martin Damm of the Czech Republic.

Junior Tennis

U.S. Tennis Association Boys' 16 and Under National Championship

Beverly High junior Daniel Ho and partner Joshua Tchan of Woodland Hills reached the doubles quarterfinals, winning three matches, the first two in straight sets

Ho and Tchan lost to top-seeded Evan King of Chicago and Raymond Sarmiento of Fontana, 6-4, 6-2, in the quarterfinals. King and Sarmiento went on to win the championship.

Ho and Tchan were seeded fifth.

In singles play, Ho won two main draw matches, both in straight sets, after receiving a first-round bye, then lost to Ben Guthrie of Plano, Texas, 6-4, 4-6, 7-6 (5) in the round of 32.

Ho was seeded 18th. Guthrie, who was seeded 12th, won one more main draw match, then lost in the quarterfinals.

The tournament was held Aug. 1-10 in

Kalamazoo, Mich.

Southern California Summer Junior Open and Satellite

Jackson Leipzig of Beverly Hills won the boys' 12 and under singles division, defeating top-seeded Sidney Tan of Lakewood, 7-6, 6-4, in the final.

Leipzig, who was seeded second, defeated Derek Tong of Rancho Palos Verdes, 6-1, 6-0, in the quarterfinals and Kawani Stanley of Lakewood, 6-2, 6-1, in the semifinals.

The tournament was conducted July 28 through Aug. 1.

U.S. Tennis Association Boys 18 and Under Clay Court National Championships

Ho defeated Jonathan Chang of Houston, 6-2, 6-0, in the round of 256, and Kyle Roth of New York City, 6-1, 6-1, in the round of 128 before losing to Tennys Sandgren of Gallatin, Tenn., the tournament's No. 1 seed, 6-2, 6-1, in the round of 64 in the 18 and under singles division.

Sandgren won two more matches to reach the quarterfinals, where he was eliminated.

The tournament was conducted July 13-20 in Delray Beach, Fla.

Cycling

Beverly High senior Kit Karzen won the boys' 17-18-year-old division's points race Aug. 14 at the USA Cycling Junior



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Woman High Jumps 3'11" at Local High School Track

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Track National Championships at the ADT Event Center Velodrome in Carson. [See photo page 2]

Karzen lapped the field once and won the final sprint to earn 23 points, finishing seven points ahead of runner-up Michael Niemi of Gainesville, Fla.

"Going into it, I thought I had pretty good chances," Karzen said. "The competition was really good this year so I had to be on top of it tactic wise and conserve as much as I could."

In a points race, sprints are held at designated intervals, with points awarded based on the order of finish. Points are also awarded for the overall finish.

Karzen and VRC: NOW-MS Society Cycling Team teammates Danny Heeley and Jesse Marans finished second Aug. 15 in the boys' junior division team sprint, where two three-man teams race against each other.

Karzen and Heeley finished second Aug. 16 in the boys' 16-18-year-old division madison, a race where each cyclist rides part of the distance, then has another rider take over, rests and later returns to the race.

Karzen finished third in the boys' keirin Aug. 14, a mass start individual event with a paced start.

Karzen finished fifth in the boys' 17-18-year-old division's scratch race Aug. 17, which is determined by the order of finish.

Basketball JCC Maccabi Games

Starting forward Andrew Farhadi, a Beverly Hills resident, averaged 14.6 points in seven games, helping Los Angeles-Milken Team Bobrow to second place in the boys' 16-and-under division.

Los Angeles-Milken Team Bobrow won its first seven games, including a forfeit victory, then lost to Suffolk (N.Y.), 63-61, in last Thursday's championship game, squandering a four-point lead with 11 seconds to play, as Suffolk made two late 3-point baskets for the victory.

"I feel we did our best," Farhadi said of his team's play in the championship game. "We just had a mental breakdown in the end."

Farhadi said he and his teammates "learned a lot from this experience," specifically "to focus throughout the game and communicate so you don't have mental breakdowns."

The JCC Maccabi Games were held in the Detroit area.

Junior Golf Callaway Golf Junior World Golf Championships

Mario Clemens, a Beverly High senior, finished in a five-way tie for 19th in the boys' 15-17 division, one shot behind Steven Kearney of Carlsbad, who finished 18th.

Clemens shot a 14-over-par 302 on the Torrey Pines Golf Course's South Course

in San Diego.

Eugene Wong of Canada won with a four-under-par 284.

The tournament was conducted July 15-18.

Los Robles Summer Championship

Josh Newman, a Beverly High sophomore, shot a four-over-par 74 to win the boys' 14-15-year-old division of the Southern California PGA Junior Tour tournament Aug. 13 at the Los Robles Greens Golf Course in Thousand Oaks.

Newman is the son of Jason Newman, the Normans' girls' and boys' golf coach.

Professional Baseball

Joe Rocchio, a 2003 Beverly High graduate, has a 0.00 earned run average in six relief appearances with the Clearwater Threshers, since debuting with the Florida State League team Aug. 8

Rocchio was placed on the disabled list by the Lakewood (N.J.) Blue Claws of the South Atlantic League July 21 after being diagnosed with turf toe. He pitched in two games with the Philadelphia Phillies' Gulf Coast League affiliate during a rehabilitation assignment, then was assigned to Clearwater when he was activated off the disabled list Aug. 6.

Rocchio was 4-6 with one save and a 3.86 earned run average in 26 appearances, all in relief, with Lakewood.

College Football

Justin Paysinger, a 2004 Beverly High

graduate, was elected president of the Western Athletic Conference's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee during its 2008 conference June 27-29 at San Jose State University.

"It feels good to be given this responsibility," said Paysinger, a San Jose State football center who had been the committee's vice president. "It is great that my peers in the group think that highly of me to give me this role and the opportunity to lead the group."

Paysinger's leadership responsibilities include running conference meetings, listening to the concerns of student-athletes and helping lead legislative procedures which affect all student-athletes in the WAC.

Paysinger has earned his bachelor's degree in child development and is a second-semester graduate student, pursuing a master's degree in kinesiology.

Paysinger is a son of Donald Paysinger, a 1977 Beverly Hills graduate who is now the Normans' offensive line coach, and a nephew of Carter Paysinger, the Beverly Hills football coach.

Steven Herbert has covered Beverly High sports for the Beverly Hills Weekly since 1999. 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.

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coverstory

DUMPSTER DRIVER

A day in the life of a Beverly Hills trash collector

By Jacquelyn Ryan

Foothill Road
August 22, 2008

6:30 a.m. There's still a dark blue hue to the sky that washes over the glass walls of the Public Works building when I amble up the concrete steps to report for my first, and perhaps only, day as a trash collector for Beverly Hills. The streets are virtually empty of cars, people and even birds, giving the odd quiet an almost tangible presence. But I barely make it to the top step when James Burnley, solid waste and storm water operations supervisor, greets me with a Texas-sized smile and warm handshake. He laughs as he asks me if I'm ready for my big day and introduces me to my guide for the day solid waste equipment operator Oscar Acosta, a joyful man with a light red birthmark on the right side of his forehead. He looks straight into my eyes as he says, 'Good to meet you.'

6:40 a.m. James takes me inside the building, where we end up in a room of at least 15 trash collectors who are preparing for their day in the city. They are all dressed in orange suits, except for two field officers who are wearing dark blue. They kindly laugh at me for wearing simple faux-leather ballet flats and a black vest for my day 'on the job' as they all point out their steel-toed boots and coveralls. They insist that I take ear plugs and a dust mask along for my ride.

6:55 a.m. James escorts me back outside where Oscar is waiting for me to start his route of single-family homes' trash bins. We walk across the street to the repair lot, where mechanic Gary Simmons had just inspected our large yellow trash truck. James and Oscar help me climb almost four feet above the ground to my seat on the left side of the truck. Trash truck drivers sit on the right side of the truck, unlike conventional cars in the U.S. Oscar said that was probably the hardest thing to figure out when he started the job. Oscar puts on orange and black driving gloves, starts the engine, turns on KROQ and we pull out on Foothill Road, heading toward Wilshire.

7:05 a.m. The guys were right. The truck is so loud I feel like I'm in a nightclub as I strain to raise my voice to be heard in conversation. Oscar's father worked as a trash collector for Beverly Hills for 40 years, he said. When Oscar started this job in the summer of 1985 at 21 years old, his father was actually the one who trained him. He worked with his father for four years.

7:10 a.m. We enter the alley behind North Oakhurst for our first trash pick-up. The alley

is only 15 feet wide; the truck is probably 10 feet wide. I clench my fists, nervous we are going to break a mirror off the side of the truck. Oscar handles the truck like a 2-door coupe and we clear the alley without a scratch. With his right hand, Oscar controls a joy stick that is connected to the truck's automated arm, which grabs trash containers, hoists them into the air and shakes their contents into the back of the truck. The next trash container is backwards. The lid hinge is facing the alley, instead of the wall, making it impossible to shake the contents into the truck. He debates getting out to turn it around, but he said sometimes the containers are just too heavy to turn by himself. So Oscar pushes and pulls with the automated truck arm until the container is facing the right direction and he can empty it properly.

7:50 a.m. We approach another alley. I ask Oscar what one of the most difficult parts of his job is. He tells me that people too often throw inappropriate things in their trash containers. He says that he often finds large appliances in trash bins, like air conditioners or dishwashers. Not only are those things not meant to go to the same landfill as common trash, but often the large metal appliances clog up his truck and make it impossible for him to complete his route. He said once something like that enters the truck, he almost always has to head straight to the landfill, which is almost 20 miles away. Once he tried to unclog his truck himself and he fell inside. If he hadn't remembered to turn off the compactor inside the truck, he could have died.

8:20 a.m. We have already collected five TONS of trash. The truck holds up to 10 tons, depending on the bulk of items. So far, we've seen several trash bags on top of the trash bins, instead of inside them. Since the automated arm can't pick up individual bags, that trash often ends up on the ground, instead of inside the trash truck. Another crew will come around later in the day to pick up the remnants from the morning crew's routes.

8:30 a.m. The sun is out by this point, but there is still an overcast fog hanging over the city. Oscar says it's great to have cooler weather like this, especially since our truck's air-conditioner is broken. The trucks that Oscar and his coworkers are driving are relatively new, only four or five years old, he says. But he doesn't like these new trucks as much as the older ones. The new ones break down more often. In fact, there should be at least 10 trucks out on the road today, but only six are in working order. Since Beverly Hills

abandoned its own trash treatment plant a few years ago, they have been using Crown Disposal Services which is located 18 miles away in Sun Valley. The long commute is harder on the trucks.

9:00 a.m. Oscar tells me that he enjoys his job and that city service runs in his family. He has four brothers who are also in the field of city service, including one brother who is a police officer in West L.A.

9:30 a.m. The trash compactor in the back of the truck starts beeping to alert Oscar that the truck is nearly full.

9:40 a.m. We stop at the Public Works building to use the restrooms and get drinks for our journey to the dump in the San Fernando Valley. We get back in the truck and start heading toward Coldwater Canyon.

10:40 a.m. We arrive at the Crown Disposal center. As we enter through the gates, I look to the right where there are 5-foot by 5-foot blocks of compacted recyclables. It looks like aluminum cans were turned into building blocks. The stacks are at least 30 feet tall. I let my eyes loose focus for a moment and the trash heaps look like knolls and valleys. But then a huge mattress falls from one of the six trash trucks unloading in the dump and I am brought back to the reality of where we are. We pull onto a scale, where we are weighed. There is a large black dog sleeping in the shade. His ears are being swarmed by flies. We back up into the dump, where Oscar flips a switch and the rear of the truck tilts to unload the trash into the sea of other disposables.

11:25 a.m. We are traveling over Coldwater Canyon again. The bumpy road shakes the automated arm just a little bit loose. The truck blares a warning beep for the remainder of the truck ride back to Beverly Hills.

11:40 a.m. We are back on the route, finishing the last five alleys. Oscar says his favorite part of his job is his coworkers, even though he only gets to see them for a short time throughout the day. In his off-time, Oscar just likes to relax and spend time with his girlfriend. He admitted that his favorite pastime though is watching the Dodgers play. He bought a season package to Dodgers stadium this year.

12:00 p.m. Oscar starts to empty a trash container into the truck when he realizes it is filled with construction supplies and leftover plywood. The wood scatters everywhere and a 2-by-4 falls directly onto the wiring between our cab and the truck. Oscar immediately jumps out to investigate. The last time that a piece of wood hit the wiring, the truck burst into flames and Oscar narrowly escaped. The sun is bearing down on us now and we are both sweating. The smell of trash is getting stronger.

12:30 p.m. We are approaching an alley at Rexford and Wilshire. There are two cars blocking the alley. So Oscar decides to skip this alley for now and moves onto the next

one. Again, poorly placed trash gets all over the truck, so Oscar gets out to collect it by hand.

12:50 p.m. We come back to the blocked alley. The cars are still there so Oscar waits, hoping they would move after they saw him. But they don't. Oscar gets out of the truck and asks them to move, which they do—slowly.

1 p.m. We arrive back at the Public Works building again in preparation for another trip to the dump. But James tells Oscar to take the truck across the street where the truck washer has come by to provide weekly car washes for the city. Someone else will take his truck to the dump for him later, he says. So like Oscar, I decide my day is done. As I step out of the truck, I realize I'm permeated with the smell of trash but I feel oddly accomplished.

Trash Talk

Beverly Hills operated its own trash transfer station for residential solid waste until approximately 2004. The city then entered into a residential contract with Crown Disposal Services partly because "it does a better job of diverting waste from landfills," said Shana Epstein, Beverly Hills' environmental utilities manager. [See Issue #236 "Something Stinks" for more on the city's transition to using Crown's services.] Crown separates the recyclables from the trash at their disposal station, allowing residents to dump all their trash into one bin. With Crown separating the recycling, 60 percent of the trash from Beverly Hills is now being diverted from a landfill, according to Epstein. That means less than half Beverly Hills' waste is left in a landfill to seep into the soil and water.

Before operating with Crown, Beverly Hills only had a 50 percent diversion rate, Epstein said. Since Beverly Hills creates around 32,000 tons of waste each year, increasing trash diversion was a major motivator in changing the city's system. It was also more economical to use Crown, said Epstein.

Though the city has a 10 percent higher recycling rate than it did before using Crown's station, the city's trash trucks are burning more fossil fuels than before. The trucks are driving sometimes up to 120 miles in one day in multiple trips to the disposal station 18 miles away in Sun Valley. The trucks have 60-gallon tanks that need to be refilled daily, according to truck driver Oscar Acosta. But Epstein says the city fills the trucks with biodiesel fuel to cut down on their carbon footprint.

Epstein added that other disposal companies near Beverly Hills also tend to drive several miles to get to landfills or transfer stations themselves so using another disposal company wouldn't necessarily cut down on the fuel use.

"People need to realize that our waste is eventually going to have to travel even further. We are going to have to put it on train one day" because landfills are filling up quickly, said Epstein. "People just need to be aware how much waste they are putting into those black bins."

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