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Issue 503 • May 21 - May 27, 2009



**AYSO, Little League face off with the City Council**



### "Beverly's Proposed New Building"

[Issue 502]

An editing mistake incorrectly reflected Choral Director Joel Pressman's position on two options for construction in a new administrative building proposed for Beverly High. It should have read, "The high school committee voted for Option II." The committee includes teachers, department chairs, and others.

### "Is Beverly Hills Pushing Out Dealerships?" [Issue 501]

An editing mistake incorrectly stated Leslie and Phil Katz's residence and position on the Lexus expansion. The Katz' do not manage a building. It should have read, "Leslie and Phil Katz, who live on South Maple Drive addressed issues of increased traffic, horns, and the frequency of back ups interfering with the residential area."



### Math Counts!

Pictured: (L-R) Austin Skootsky, John Xiang, Victor Lee, Daniel Raban, Alex Barrouch, and Jenny Chieu. Not pictured: George Qiao and Sam Leichenger.

Students from Beverly Vista were recognized at last Tuesday's Board of Education meeting for their achievements in math.

Eight Beverly Vista mathletes placed 7th out of the 39 schools in the Mathcounts regional competition in Redondo Beach earlier this year. Beverly Vista student Victor Lee ranked 12th out of 158 and advanced to the State competition in March.

Maple Counseling Center holds counselor and volunteer recognition event  
The Maple Counseling Center's annual Counselor and Volunteer Luncheon was held May 11 to honor those who volunteer and fulfill the mission of the center.

Beverly Vista 4th grader Lauren Aviram was selected from hundreds of applicants to read her speech, "Writing from the Heart" at the luncheon. Her speech was written through Community Circle, a Maple Counseling Center program that teaches young students life lessons.

The Maple Counseling Center is in its 38th year of providing community services to Beverly Hills and surrounding communities, and recognizes the outstanding contributions of more than 270 volunteers who have furthered the mission of the center.

Special recognition was given to Fran Behrstock and Ruth Byelas for their 20 plus years of volunteer service to TMCC, as well as, 19 other attendees who received recognition for over 10 years of service to the Center.

## WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?

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editor@bhweekly.com



## SNAPSHOT

# briefs

### District predicts BHUSD will go into Basic Aid next year

Despite predictions that the Beverly Hills Unified School District will not go into Basic Aid in the next few years, new information shows BHUSD qualifying for Basic Aid as early as next year.

According to an email from Assistant Superintendent Cheryl Plotkin to Board of

Education President Nooshin Meshkaty, "We will most likely be basic aid for next year. Depends on how much we get cut for 2008-09 and 2009-2010. We did receive high[er] than anticipated property tax revenues for 2008-2009: \$30,320,255. This can be because of increase in assessed value and/or increased

collection of prior year property taxes."

According to the latest BHUSD budget, unanimously approved by the Board of Education, the budget for the 2008-09 school year was \$61,930,654. Of that budget, \$32,076,094 came from per pupil funding which was 51.7 percent of the total budget.



ALL HAIL THE MAESTRO!  
LOS ANGELES

Beverly Hills residents Pat Boone, Jr. Philharmonic founder-conductor Dr. Ernst Katz, Debby Boone and conductor Gary S. Greene prepare for the orchestra's 72nd Anniversary Concert Spectacular at Walt Disney Concert Hall on Wednesday evening, June 3. The Jr. Philharmonic is based in Beverly Hills with weekly rehearsals at Horace Mann School. Katz founded the Jr. Philharmonic Orchestra in 1937.



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Publisher & CEO  
Josh E. Gross

Reporter  
Diana Vu

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Steven Herbert

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Mike Saghian  
Eiman Matian

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  
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Becoming a Basic Aid district means funds come from property taxes as opposed to state aid. It is not voluntary, it only happens when a district's local property taxes exceed the amount of funding the district would receive from the state.

Next year's projection is \$29,604,175 according to the proposed budget. However, as reported by Plotkin, property tax revenues have already exceeded that number.

"I'm very pleased," these were the numbers I have been looking at," said Board of Education member Brian Goldberg.

Based on consultant Dr. Mike Winter's report from last year's Board of Education meeting, a 5 percent increase on assessed property values are anticipated for this year, which means the current \$30 million in tax revenues reported by Plotkin will increase and surpass the \$31,216,925 per pupil funding for 2009-10, which qualifies BHUSD for Basic Aid.

BHUSD currently receives state funding based on the actual daily attendance (ADA) of students. For 2008-09, BHUSD received \$6,770 per pupil for over 5,000 students.

Basic Aid means the BHUSD will not be affected by state cuts, since it will no longer rely on state funding.

The District will receive final numbers and assessed value information in August.

Basic Aid could also affect permits. With no per-pupil funding, opponents of opportunity permits say there is no incentive to have so many additional students. By reducing the number of students, the district will have more money to spend per remaining resident student.

"It's still up to the Board of Education to allocate funds," said Goldberg. "Basic Aid is a good thing. It's just one more tool we will have to be much more secure, less dependent, and do much better planning."

#### Bees Buzz in Beverly Hills

Beverly Hills residents noticed something different above the Beverly Drive and Wilshire Boulevard intersection streetlight camera last weekend—thousands of bees.

Approximately 20,000 according to LA County Vector Control Executive Director Robert Saviskas.

Although a phone call on May 10 reported a beehive, "The technical term is swarm," said Saviskas. The swarm was removed Monday, and a trap was left behind collect any additional bees left behind. Saviskas said approximately 200 bees were caught in the trap.

Saviskas said swarms occur around this time of the year, and the situation is not

unusual.

"This probably happened because a beehive elsewhere created a second queen. In this case, half of the beehive will follow the original queen to another location," said Saviskas. "This queen, decided to go to a Beverly Hills streetlight."

Saviskas reported that the bees are likely

*briefs cont. on page 4*



## MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

**DATE:** Thursday, May 28, 2009  
**TIME:** 1:30 p.m. \*\*  
**LOCATION:** Commission Meeting Room 280-A  
Beverly Hills City Hall  
455 North Rexford Drive  
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

The Planning Commission of the City of Beverly Hills, at its regular meeting on Thursday, May 28, 2009, will have an informal discussion beginning at 1:30 p.m.\* to consider regulations that could preserve views in the Trousdale Estates Area and the City's Hillside Area. In particular, the issue is to address foliage so that it does not substantially impair views from hillside residences. The Planning Commission's discussion could result in the development of a view preservation ordinance that would address landscaping on privately-owned property in the Hillside and/or Trousdale Estates Areas of the City. In the event that an ordinance is prepared, it would proceed through a notice public hearing process.

Any interested person may attend the meeting and be heard or present written comments to the Commission. Comments may be submitted in writing to the Planning Division of the Community Development Department prior to the meeting date and written or oral comments will be accepted at the Planning Commission meeting at the date and time noted above.

If there are any questions regarding this notice, please contact Larry Sakurai, Principal Planner, in the Planning Division of the Community Development Department 310.285.1123, or by email at [lsakurai@beverlyhills.org](mailto:lsakurai@beverlyhills.org). A copy of the staff report for the discussion will be on-file in the Planning Division of the Community Development Department a week prior to the Planning Commission meeting, and can be reviewed by any interested person at 455 North Rexford Drive, Beverly Hills, California 90210.

**JONATHAN LAIT, AICP**  
Assistant Director of Community Development  
Publish Date: May 21, 2009

\*\* The Planning Commission meeting will begin at 1:30 p.m. with a bus tour of sites on the public hearing agenda. The public hearing items precede this informal discussion item on the agenda; however, the Planning Commission can and does consider items on the agenda out of order from time to time.



## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

**DATE:** Thursday, May 28, 2009  
**TIME:** 1:30 pm\*  
**LOCATION:** Commission Meeting Room 280A  
Beverly Hills City Hall  
455 North Rexford Drive  
Beverly Hills, California 90210

The Planning Commission of the City of Beverly Hills, at its REGULAR meeting on Thursday, May 28, 2009, will hold a public hearing beginning at 1:30 pm to consider:

A request for a Conditional Use Permit pursuant to Beverly Hills Municipal Code Section 10-3-2733 to allow required parking to be located off-site in conjunction with the conversion of an existing general office use to a medical office use. Approximately 20,101 square feet of existing office floor area is proposed to be converted to medical floor area in the building located at **9090 Wilshire Boulevard**. However, because medical floor area requires a higher parking rate than general office floor area, the building will have a parking shortfall of 44 spaces. These 44 spaces are proposed to be located at 9150 Wilshire Boulevard. The Planning Commission may grant a Conditional Use Permit authorizing off-site parking, if such parking is located within 500 feet of the use it is intended to serve. The proposed off-site parking location is located approximately 400 feet from the subject property.

This project has been assessed in accordance with the authority and criteria contained in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the State CEQA Guidelines, and the environmental regulations of the City, and it has been determined that the project is exempt from CEQA regulations pursuant to Section 15301 of the State CEQA Guidelines in that the project does not involve any new construction or floor area but would result in a change of operation from general office to medical office for a portion of an existing building.

Any interested person may attend the meeting and be heard or present written comments to the Commission. Comments may be submitted in writing to the Planning Department prior to the meeting date and written or oral comments will be accepted at the Planning Commission meeting at the date and time noted above.

According to Government Code Section 65009, if you challenge the Commission's action in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City, either at or prior to the public hearing.

If there are any questions regarding this notice, please contact Ryan Gohlich, Assistant Planner at the Planning Division at 310.285.1194, or by email at [rgohlich@beverlyhills.org](mailto:rgohlich@beverlyhills.org). Copies of the application and plans are on file in the Community Development Department.

\* Although a bus tour is scheduled to take place from 1:30-2:30, the Planning Commission may hear this item at any time at or after 1:30 pm.

Approved as to form:  
Jonathan Lait, AICP, City Planner

briefs cont. from page 3

Africanized honeybees, which account for over 80 percent of reported cases in Los Angeles. He said it is likely that the bees came from Franklin Canyon.

Saviskas said African honeybees can be highly aggressive once settled into their swarm.

"The next step after the swarm would be to start the beehive. The bees would start to get defensive and protective of their queen," said Saviskas. "If that swarm was left for another two weeks, the bees would have gotten extremely aggressive."

### City Council rejects Chamber of Commerce's need for financial assistance

The City Council decided not to increase funding for the Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce at last Wednesday's City Council meeting after a proposal from the Chamber about the budget impacts of the Conference and Visitors Bureau removal last year.

"The City Council decided not to provide any monetary support to the Chamber," said Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Dan Walsh. "We have overhead in our company that we can no longer support."

The City Council did decide to open discussion through council liaisons to explore alternatives that will provide time for the Chamber to transition its operations to a new organization structure.

The Chamber of Commerce and

Conference and Visitors Bureau split in late 2008. The City Council voted unanimously last August to separate both operations. Councilmember Barry Brucker said the Chamber of Commerce performance audit last year was not impressive in his opinion.

"It was clear that the Chamber was getting override from the Conference and Visitors Bureau," said Brucker. "We felt we would get more productivity if both were run independently."

Supporters of the Conference and Visitors Bureau split say hotels should be able to run on their own since they generate money from the Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) which is a tax charged to hotel visitors.

But opponents of the split say keeping the two together has been effective historically and saves the City money by preventing duplication of services.

According to Brucker, the Council came to a unanimous consensus to reject the Chamber of Commerce's proposal to put the Conference and Visitors Bureau back into the chamber. The Council also rejected the proposal for an approximate \$447,000 grant.

"We want to know exactly what results you are expecting," said Brucker. "And they did not provide support to show a return on an investment."

A meeting is set for the end of May according to Walsh. The City Council will be making final budget decisions June 2.



### Beverly choir recognized across the Nation

(Front L to R) Roxana Soroudi and Dorsa Peykar (Back L to R) Leetal Sayegh, Mitchell Rose, and Niki Afsharian

Beverly Hills High School's two select choirs were both Gold Medal winners and overall best choirs at festivals in April.

The Madrigal Singers took 4 awards and top honors at the Heritage Festival in Orlando, Florida, on April 18, while the Minnesingers matched those 4 prizes at the Heritage Festival in San Diego on April 25.

Each chorus was voted best in their categories, and highest scoring choir in all categories. The choirs received the Adjudicators' Trophy, only given for exceptionally high scores, and were invited to the Festival of Gold.

Beverly High Choral Director Joel Pressman also praised the singers for "amazing growth as musicians during the preparation for these festivals, but, even more important, the wonderful way they represented our community, showing the Beverly Hills teenagers are warm, polite, and charming, no matter what the popular image on TV."

Pressman said if the funds can be raised, both groups hope to follow up these victories by attending the Festival of Gold next year in New York.

Rock On!



Pictured: Vincent Brock, Beverly Hills High 9th grader, Duke Park, Beverly Hills High 9th grader, Gabby Ashkanazy, Beverly Hills High 9th grader, Jordan A kouka, Beverly Hills High 9th grader, Ariel Bleiberg, Beverly Hills High 9th grader, Jeremy Corren, Horace Mann 8th grader, Elbert Kim Horace Mann 8th grader, Miya Broder, Harvard Westlake 8th Grader, Julius Kim, Horace Mann 8th grader, Omid Shamoil, Horace Mann 8th grader, Yaron Ginsberg Horace Mann 8th grader, and Mathew Shternberg Horace Mann 7th grader.

White Noise, a rock n roll band made up of 12 Beverly Hills middle school and high

school students between the ages of 13 to 15, will be making their Hollywood debut at the ROXY on Sunday, June 7th.

Under the direction of Horace Mann Director of Instrumental Music Jarrett Zellea, the City program formed this after school program known as Rock Band nearly two years ago.

Zellea, also a two-time Grammy Award winner, renowned musician, composer, and producer, brings nearly 15 years of experience in the music business.

In the past 2 years these young rockers have learned to play a wide variety of music, ranging from Guns N' Roses, to The Beatles, to System of a Down.

Doors open at 5 PM, the opening act will be performing at 6 PM, and White Noise will perform at 7 PM.

Tickets are \$10 for students, \$15 for adults, and \$30 for VIP. Donations in any amount are very much appreciated. All proceeds from ticket sales will be donated to White Noise to further build the program. For more information, email Jarrett Zellea at jszman@yahoo.com



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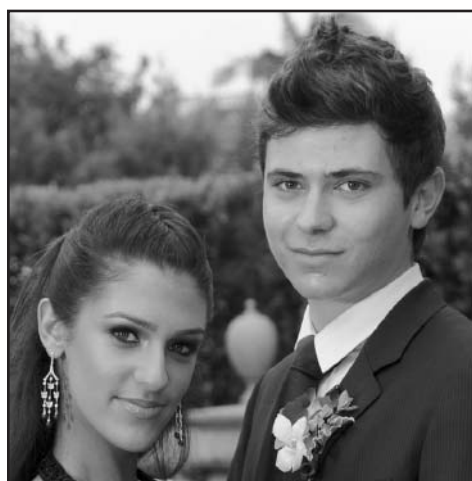
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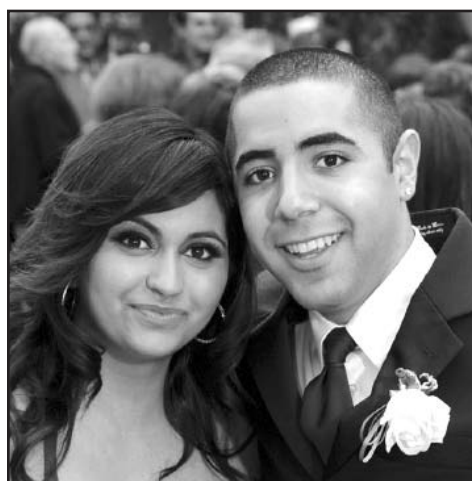
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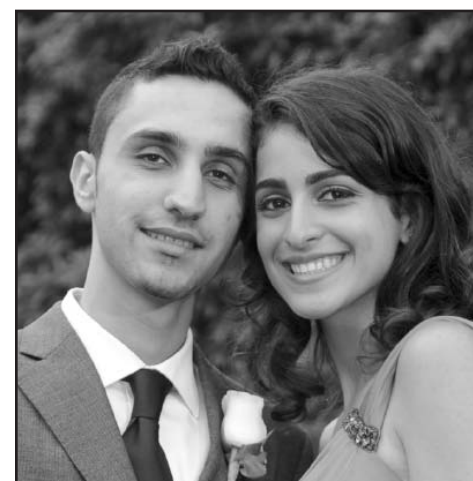
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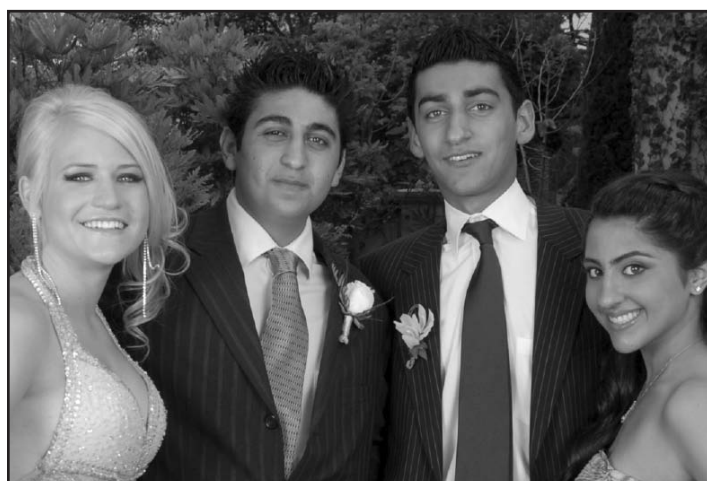
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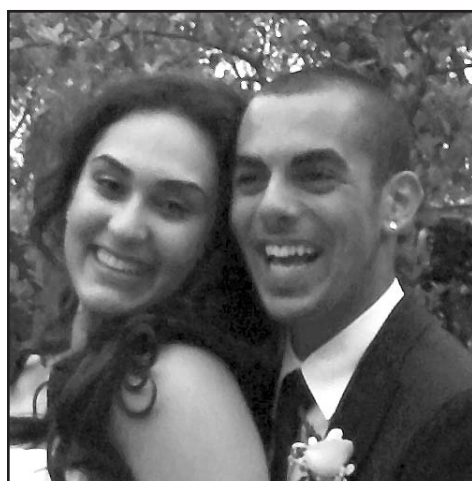
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*Batel Ouda and Ori Botach*



*Simon Moghanian, Shawna Shamoel, Jasmine Ramin, Benji Pourmorady*

# from the hills of beverly



## All Around Our Village

And notes on people and events

By Rudy Cole

“Physician, heal thyself,” is an adage I should have followed. After frequent warnings to readers to make sure you have workable radios and batteries, I am embarrassed to disclose that none of my radios functioned following the shaker last Sunday night.

No, problem. My television set was working fine, and certainly the Los Angeles stations would have immediate reports. Wrong. Only Ch. Nine in the middle of a regular newscast had any quake news. Amazingly, none of the network or independent stations interrupted their regular programs, most not at all and others much later.

Sunday is a very light day for electronic media, few stations have field reporters available late in the evening and unless there’s a good car chase or mammoth fire, the news programs wrap early.

But I did replenish all my batteries.

\*\*\*

For some inexplicable reason I decided to check the expiration date on a bottle of Bloody Mary mix a store clerk was recommending, maybe because it was a brand I had never seen or used before.

Somewhat of a shocker to discover that every single bottle’s expiration date was months back, several even dated late last year. Most special display items in stores are stacked by distributors, but when I informed Vendome’s manager about the lapsed dates, he immediately removed the entire stock.

Slightly different issue with Whole Foods and one of their milk products,

Knudsen’s. I have used that dairy’s milk for years, even when there were many more choices at the markets. Yes, I am conflicted between milk and vodka, but my Kettle One bottle doesn’t leak. Knudsen’s does, at least at Whole Foods.

The faulty containers are paper, not the larger plastic ones. I called the distributor, Heartland Farms in the City of Industry, and a consumer affairs person said they had no

reports of container leaks, but would send a sales rep to Whole Foods immediately to check.

However, when I spoke to a Whole Foods marketing person, they confirmed reports of leaks in smaller containers and explained the problem might be caused when shipping.

Also somewhat disconcerting was the number of milk containers I spotted with imminent expiration dates. You would assume that the product would have at least a four day life span in the refrigerator.

Now, I am hardly a maven on consumer affairs, but I decided to check other products at some other markets. I found close to or expired food items in almost every store in the area with the exception of Pavilion’s, but they too had leaky milk containers.

The moral of the story: Check your purchases, even packaged and canned goods for “use before” imprints on products. Probably not a surprise to wiser, more experienced shoppers, but almost everything you buy is dated, somewhere on the container.

\*\*\*

By now, the semi-annual Affaire in the Garden has become a meet and greet as well as artistic resource for our village. Some of the best art available finds its way to our outdoor exhibit, and last week’s show sponsored by the City and the Recreation and Parks Department was no exception.

Outdoor, community art exhibits can be found in many other places, but ours consistently attracts some of the best works by recognized artists and artisans.

Winners of this year’s awards were: **Kristen Neveu**, Best of Show; **Maria O’Malley**, originality; **Aaron No One**, Best Display and **Shea Guevara** painting. “Best of Show” does sound like a good title for a movie gone to the dogs and Guevara could be helpful, close enough, if the neighbors do revolt. (See following)

But the ride has not always been smooth for the event. Some years back, a neighborhood association complained about the traffic and intrusion of the art show and demanded that it be moved to the civic center or, at the very least, reduced to once instead of twice a year.

When I was chair of the Recreation and Parks Commission we held a public hearing on the problem. Some of the objections did have merit, others were too bizarre even to repeat. But two things saved the art show: First, city staff went to every home in the immediate area seeking comments and then came up with a very comprehensive traffic and parking management plan that is still working and second, to the surprise of the some of the objectors, more of their neighbors appeared at the hearing to support the show than those calling for its curtailment. **Steve Miller** still heads the department, although he has a more lofty title, but it was his grunt work and that of his top assistant, the highly competent and totally unflappable **Pat Agnitch** and her able staff that saved the day. Pat retired two years ago, but she is still

missed.

An even more serious challenge to the show came from a religious dispute that had no real relationship to the Affaire in the Garden. When some civil liberties organizations, including the American Jewish Congress, objected to the placement of a Menorah by Chabad on public property, that organization made a legal challenge to the outdoor art at the same place: Beverly Gardens.

Following a ruling by the city attorney, art displays had to be taken down each night of the show and restored the next day in order to avoid a law suit on the Menorah. Side historical note: I tried to work out some compromise between AJC lawyers and **Rabbi Kunin** when I was commission chair, but flunked. Some wise ass city councilmember said my efforts didn’t have a prayer.

Speaking of Recreation and Parks, the city agency is sponsoring an excellent program – a tour of downtown Los Angeles historic theatre sites. The event begins with a reception at the historic and still fascinating Bradbury Building with visits to some restored and maintained gems. The tour will conclude with lunch at the world famous Clifton’s “Brookside Cafeteria.”

There is a Beverly Hills connection to the downtown theatres: **Toni and Bruce Corwin**, and his parents, were early creators and owners of many Los Angeles theater landmarks, including some of the tour. Bruce continued and expanded the family business and, of course, the Corwin’s are community involved icons.

For information, please call (310) 285-6840 and enjoy.

\*\*\*

For years, each of our five schools has had a Beverly Hills Police Officer on the campus. Now, that program may be modified and some PTA leaders are not happy.

Some background: According to the police department, the city has had an officer at each elementary and our high school acting as both School Resource Officer and as DARE support (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) since 1999.

Now, consideration is being given to reducing the on site officers to three, one remaining at the high school and two others rotating among the four elementary schools.

The program had some very important benefits. First, being visible and on campus does act as a deterrent. The program also led to the quick apprehension of an alleged child pornographer at one of the elementary schools, and the drug education program has created a good bond between officers and students.

However, the modifications do make sense. It means more officers for patrols in and around the school and better usage of their work hours. No public school system actually has anything close to what we have and the larger districts have their own law enforcement agencies, of course.

As former school board president and now Councilmember **Barry Brucker** told us: “It means more eyes on the streets.”

But back to the value of the program: As Crime Prevention Bureau Supervisor Sgt.

*rudy cont. on page 10*

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# people & pictures



## Society of Young Philanthropists Gala

May 9

Photos: Jeromy Robert Photography



*Dina Rezvanipour and Andrea Iturbe*



*Donna Pouladian and Bryan Lalezarian*



*Jessica Rafipour and Raymond Hekmat*



*Ailin Dayani, Mona Kerendian, Paris Kerendian*



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*Jennifer Moghaddam, Shana Kohanoff, Frances Sabettard*



*Jasmine Khoramian, Chloe Reihani, Dorsa Beroukhim*



## BHHS Boys' Golf Team Misses Southern Section Title By Narrowest of

### Margins

#### Norman boys' tennis team reaches Southern Section semifinals

By Steven Herbert

The Beverly High boys' golf team's second-place finish in last Thursday's Southern Section Team Championship Finals, one shot behind champion Anaheim Servite, was "a great accomplishment" to coach Jason Newman.

On the ride back from Rancho San Marcos Club in Santa Barbara, "the kids were all talking about 'If I had done this on that hole, then we would have won,'" Newman said.

"I said 'Guys, you just played great golf,'" Newman said. "Don't look back and have a regret. Look forward to our next opportunity to play and enjoy the success we just had."

Mario Clemens shot a team-low two-

under-par 69 for the Normans, matching Servite's Patrick Cantlay as the round's low scorer.

Colt Knedler shot a four-over-par 75, William Byun and Kristof Sebesteny both eight-over-par 79s and freshman Brian Song a nine-over-par 80 for Beverly Hills for a total of 382.

"They played well on a difficult course in a little bit of wind," Newman said. "I'm very proud of them. I couldn't be happier."

Clemens, who has signed with UCLA, had six birdies and four bogeys, in a round Newman described as "very persevering."

"When you have a certain number of bogeys and you follow that up with a birdie it means you haven't let a bad shot get to

you and you've kept your head focused on the next shot," Newman said.

"That's really one of the most important aspects of playing golf is that everybody's going to have a bad shot. The question is how do you respond to it? He responds very well consistently. He doesn't let a bad shot ruin his next shot."

Newman called Knedler's four-over-par round "a great accomplishment" because he shot a four-over-par on the front nine, then shot even-par on the more difficult back nine.

Byun's round included a triple-bogey on the 14th hole.

"I was proud of him because he could have gone downhill after that, but instead finished strong," Newman said.

Sebesteny birdied his final hole and Song "played well for a freshman," Newman said.

"They all came through very, very well," Newman said.

The second-place finished qualified the Normans for the CIF/Southern California Golf Association Tournament June 3 at the SCGA Members Golf Course in Murrieta.

The finish was Beverly Hills' best since 1971, when it also finished second. The Normans have won five Southern Section boys' golf championships, the most recent in 1955, and finished second eight times.

#### Northern Individual Regional Final

Clemens finished in a three-way tie for sixth with a two-under-par 69 Monday at Sterling Hills Golf Course in Camarillo, despite a suffering a cut lip when hit by another player's club.

Ty Gretzky of Westlake Village Oaks Christian, a son of hockey legend Wayne Gretzky, was among the players Clemens tied with.

Song shot an even-par 71 to finish in a three-way tie for 12th.

Austin Raanes of Quartz Hill won with a five-under-par 66.

The top 30 finishers qualified for the Southern Section Individual Final Tuesday at the Hacienda Golf Club in La Habra Heights.

#### Boys' Tennis

##### Beverly Hills 15, Chino Hills Ayala 3

Gary Parizher was a 6-0, 6-3, 6-2 winner while Sam Farzani won his sets 6-3, 6-3, 6-0 for the Normans in an Southern Section Division II second-round playoff match at Ayala Saturday.

The Beverly Hills No. 2 doubles team of Ben Haber and Andre Herd won its set 6-2,

6-4, 6-3.

Donovan Suh teamed with David Roth for 7-6 (2) and 6-3 victories in the first two rounds and a 6-4 victory with Steven Kim in the third round for the Normans.

Beverly Hills' No. 1 doubles team of James Ephrati and Jonathan Jason won its final two sets 6-4, 6-2 after a 6-3 first-round loss.

Daniel Ho was a 6-0 winner in his only singles set for the Normans.

#### Beverly Hills 14, South Pasadena 4

The Ephrati-Jason and Roth-Suh doubles teams both won all three of their sets in a first-round match last Thursday at Beverly Hills.

Ephrati and Jason won 6-1, 7-6 (6), 6-0, while Roth and Suh won 6-3, 6-3, 6-3.

Haber teamed with Herd for a 6-1 victory in the first round and with Kim for a 6-1 victory in the second.

Parizher was a 6-0, 6-1 winner at No. 2 singles before being replaced by a substitute. Ho was a 6-0 winner in the first round at No. 1 singles and was replaced by a substitute. Farzani was a 6-0, 6-4 winner in the final two rounds after a 6-4 loss in the first.

#### What's Next?

After defeating Villa Park 10-8 in a quarterfinal Tuesday at Villa Park, the Normans are scheduled to play host to top-seeded Brentwood in a semifinal Tuesday. The Eagles defeated Beverly Hills, 12-6, March 9 at Brentwood. Brentwood was ranked first in the final Division II poll released May 11, Normans fourth.

The Beverly Hills-Eagles winner will play the Palm Desert-San Marino winner in the final June 3 at The Claremont Club. San Marino was ranked second, Palm Desert third.

#### Girls' Lacrosse

##### Palos Verdes 10, Beverly Hills 8

Christine Kim and Tracey McEvoy both scored three goals for the Normans and Jenny Redston two in a Bay League game at Nickoll Field April 2.

Brittany Susnow caused four turnovers and made two ground ball controls and an interception for Beverly Hills.

Norman goalkeeper Gaby Heffesse made nine saves.

##### Ojai Thacher 17, Beverly Hills 4

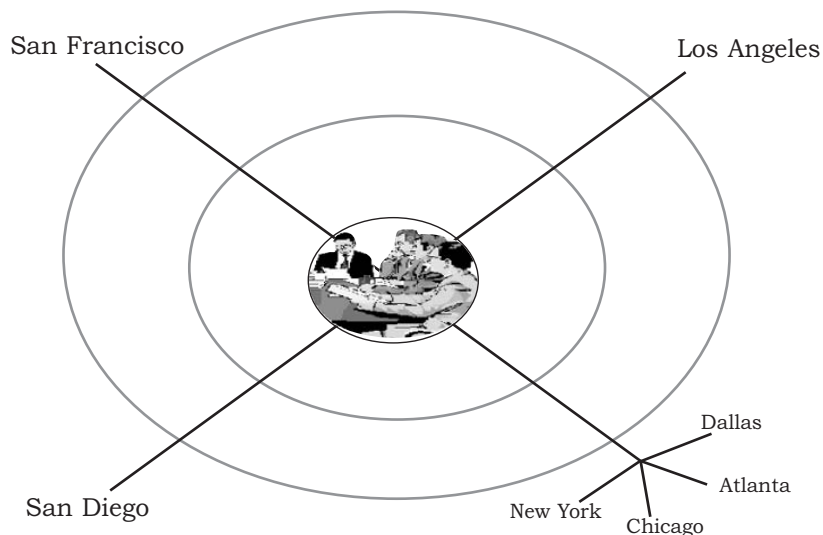
Redston scored twice and Kim and McEvoy once each while Heffesse made 19

*sports cont. on page 10*

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*Josephine Levy and Abner Levy*



*Shula Nazarian, Younes Nazarian, and Soraya Nazarian*



*Shahram Ravan, Soheila Ravan, and Candace Ravan*

sports cont. from page 8

saves in a nonleague game April 15 at Nickoll Field.

### Palos Verdes Peninsula 11, Beverly Hills 6

McEvoy scored four goals and Redston two while Heffesse made 20 saves in a Bay League game April 21 at Nickoll Field.

The Normans cut the deficit to 9-6, but the Panthers scored the final two goals.

### Softball

#### Beverly Hills 17, Inglewood Morningside 1

Morgan Harding went four-for-four and drove in four runs, while Rebecca Gold, Lisa Kliman and Annie Math all had two hits to lead the Normans' 13-hit attack in an Ocean League game at Beverly Hills April 30 called after 4 1/2 innings because of the 10-run rule.

The Normans scored seven runs in the first, with each of their first six hitters reaching base.

Math led off with a single and stole home. Gold, Harding and Kliman all had RBI singles. Erica Hendry, the No. 9 hitter in Beverly Hills' lineup, singled in Kliman and Solange Levy, who walked.

Beverly Hills increased its lead to 13-0 with six runs in the third. Harding tripled in Nicole Star and Gold and scored. Levy and Lexi Silbiger both reached base on errors and scored. Math walked and scored.

In the fourth, Levy led off with a walk and scored on Math's single. Harding singled in Math. Silbiger singled in Gold, who walked, and Harding.

The Monarchs combined a walk and a double in the fifth for their run.

Emily Rosen was the Normans' starting pitcher, allowing one hit over two innings, striking out two batters and walking one.

Star pitched the final three innings, allowing two hits and one run, striking out one

and walking two.

### Baseball

#### Culver City 9, Beverly Hills 0

Erik Munzer had two of the Normans' five hits and was their only runner to reach third base in an Ocean League game at La Cienega Park April 14.

Munzer singled with one out in the third inning and advanced to second on Ben Siteman-Sommers' two-out single, but the inning ended when Michael Kerman popped out.

Munzer singled with two outs in the fifth inning, but was stranded on third when Jonas Brock grounded out.

Pinch-hitter Justin Wagner singled with one out in the seventh. A.J. Fortier followed with a walk, but Cody Vallez-Norton grounded into a game-ending double play.

Kerman had Beverly Hills' first hit, a two-out single in the first.

The Centaurs scored once in both the first and second, twice in the fourth, four times in the fifth and once in the sixth.

Both teams finished with five hits. The Normans made five errors and their pitchers issued three walks and hit two batters. Three of the Culver City batters who reached base on errors scored, as did two who walked and one who was hit by a pitch.

#### La Canada 9, Beverly Hills 4

Joey Livingston drove in two runs and Charlie Bennett and Kerman both had two singles for the Normans in a nonleague game at La Cienega Park April 15.

Beverly Hills cut the Spartans' lead to 2-1 in the third as Brock's two-out single drove in Bennett, who had led off with a single.

La Canada increased its lead to 5-1 in the fourth by scoring three runs. Michael Lee, the No. 9 hitter in the Spartans' lineup, singled in A.J. Kim, who had led off with a walk. Jeff Oechsel's two-out double drove in Charlie Banks, who singled, and Lee.

The Normans cut the deficit to 5-2 in their half of the fourth when Ben Jones singled with two outs, advanced on Shane Shapiro's single and scored on Livingston's single.

Max Russell doubled in Bryan Collins, who led off with a walk, in the fifth, as La Canada increased its lead to 6-2.

The Spartans scored three runs in the sixth. Oechsel completed a four-for-four day by singling in Lee and Luis Carrasquero, who walked. Oechsel scored on Collins' single, his third of the game.

Beverly Hills scored twice in the seventh. Shapiro and Livingston both walked with two outs and the bases loaded, forcing in Brock, who walked, and Kerman, who singled.

La Canada opened the scoring in the first as Carrasquero led off with a triple. Oechsel followed with a single, driving in Carrasquero.

The Normans were out-hit, 14-9.

#### Culver City 3, Beverly Hills 0

The Normans were held to five singles in an Ocean League game at Culver City April 16.

Brock singled with one out in the first and advanced to third on an error by Centaurs left fielder Michael Lee, but the inning ended with Siteman-Sommers and Kerman striking out.

Beverly Hills didn't have another hit until Jones' two-out single in the fourth. Bennett followed with a single, but Kyle Kay flied out to end the inning.

Fortier, the No. 9 hitter in the Normans' lineup, and Munzer had back-to-back singles with one out in the fifth, but Brock struck out and Siteman-Sommers popped out to end the inning.

Culver City reliever Adrian Campos retired eight of the final nine batters he faced, striking out three.

The Centaurs scored in the first as Campos doubled with two outs and Garrett

Gemgnani followed with an RBI single.

Culver City added two runs in the third on three consecutive errors.

Patrick Cousineau, the No. 9 hitter in its lineup, led off and reached base on an error by Brock, the Beverly Hills shortstop. Cousineau scored when Devin Sylvester the next batter, reached base on an error by Bennett, the Norman first baseman. Sylvester scored when Patrick Rincon reached base on another error by Bennett.

### What's Next?

The Normans are scheduled to play host to Bell Gardens, the second-place team in the Almont League, in a Southern Section Division III first-round playoff game Friday at 3:15 p.m. at La Cienega Park.

If Beverly Hills wins, it would face the Lancaster-Laguna Hills winner Tuesday in a second-round game. The Normans would play at Laguna Hills, the third-place team in the Pacific Coast League, while the site of a game against Lancaster, the Golden League champion, would be determined by a coin toss.

Under Southern Section rules, the team with the fewer home games plays host to the next home match. If both teams have played the same number of home games, the site is determined by a coin toss.

*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.*

rudy cont. from page 6

**Michael Foxen** said in an email to this column, the program increases "the students comfort level with police" and even encourages students to provide information that could prevent crimes on campuses.

\*\*\*

Attended a well organized city press conference of the water conservation crisis we and other cities are facing which announced some first steps the city is proposing.

More on this later, but expect restaurants not to serve water without your request and some mailings on consumer actions the city wants you to take.

Incidentally, about that glass of water with your meal, it obviously is not just what you drink, but what it takes to wash the glasses that have the real impact.

The concept of informational press conferences by city public affairs staff is relatively new, but a very welcome addition to information dissemination.

The city does this frequently now and the press conferences are very important tools in assuring that critical city programs are presented by knowledgeable staff members. A recent budget press conference was a good

case in point as was this week's water conference.

Kudos to public information staffer **Cheryl Burnett** and assistant city manger for public affairs **Cheryl Freidling** for helping all of us become more factually informed. If we don't get it right, it's not their fault for at least trying to educate our local media and their readers.

\*\*\*

Maybe I'm mellowing with age, but it seems we have lost some of our civility at council meetings. Yes, there have been classic and even ugly confrontations between members, but generally those appearing to speak have been treated with respect and dignity, no matter how much a mayor or councilmember may differ with the views expressed.

Last year, I found serious fault with some of the wild charges being leveled at some councilmember by speakers, now it's the council's turn.

A recent meeting heard comments made about where one speaker lived and how that person was taking his earnings back to his home. None of that had any merit in the discussions, was demeaning and insulting to the community and has no place in rational delib-

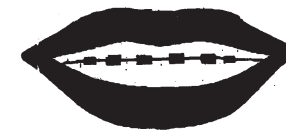
erations. It was not just the words, but the tone of voice used.

True, I'm not going to identify either the speaker or the target, that would only inflame the on-going controversy, but reasonable differences can be expressed without insults.

\*\*\*

Personal Note: I am not going to be writing about school construction programs, except in very generic terms. Reason: The school board named me and 14 others to the Citizen Oversight Committee that will monitor expenditures of money approved with the passage of Measure E. This is a state mandated committee. **Les Bronte**, who served on the previous COC was elected chair, I was elected first vice chair and **Woody Clark**, second vice chair. Fortunately for the three of us, we have some very able and bright colleagues on the committee.

*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.*



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# coverstory

## THE BATTLE OVER THE TURF

### AYSO, Little League face off with the City Council

By Diana Vu

As a result of the \$18 million budget shortfall this year, departments throughout the City are forced to cut programs and generate options to increase revenue—the Recreation and Parks Commission recommended charging youth organizations for field time by the hour.

The Recreation and Parks commission presented two options and one recommendation to the City Council last Wednesday to offset the increasing costs associated with the upkeep and maintenance of City athletic fields and facilities.

According to staff reports, “As the youth sports organizations are the primary users of all fields and facilities, the assessment of a use fee to all organizations was proposed.”

The recommendation charges organizations \$35 per hour for all uses inclusive of fields, gyms, and other indoor uses. Revenue potential with current use standards is approximately \$288,600 according to the staff report.

Recreation and Parks Commission vice chair Marc O’Krent said the commission researched other cities, and after much consideration, felt it was time to charge youth organizations.

“We would love to not charge anything at all, but the bottom line is, things that were free, are just not free anymore. Everyone has to share the pain,” said O’Krent. “In order to preserve other programs, we have to prioritize.”

The primary users of City and school district fields and athletic facilities include: American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO), Beverly Hills Little League, Beverly Hills Basketball League, Beverly Hills Lacrosse, Beverly Hills Football League, and Dynamo Sports Club. The sum of \$378,416 has been determined as a conservative estimate of the direct maintenance and operations costs annually according to the staff report.

“The burden by putting usage charges will be too hard for families to bear,” said former Board of Education member and AYSO supporter AJ Willmer.

Willmer, who has been actively involved with AYSO as a parent, coach, and referee since 1989 said although he understands the position of the council and is sympathetic; he is disappointed that there is not enough support of youth sports.

Willmer also said families with multiple children or children who play more than one sport will be dramatically affected.

“It is not unusual to be in that situation,” said Willmer. “Which means hundreds of dollars a year in usage fees alone.”

Willmer said the program is a great service to the City, and gives them great value for their money.

“If the City were to run youth programs, it would cost a lot more. I just don’t feel right charging volunteers,” said Wilmer.

Director of Community Services Steve Miller supported that claim. In Wednesday’s meeting Miller said, “I have experienced other cities where the City pays for programs and it is much more costly.”

Beverly Hills AYSO Region 72 commissioner Jeffrey Pop said other options should be considered.

“The fee they are asking for is a big number for AYSO, and contributes only a small number to the City budget. It’s not necessary, and it’s not going to help with the budget,” said Pop.

“Unfortunately, we are in tough times. We are looking everywhere to end wasteful spending at every level,” said Mirisch. “We all need to pitch in. As terrific as sports leagues are, they need to help.”

Willmer said the organization rarely uses City fields, which is part of why he doesn’t understand the need for such a high fee.

“Mirisch is under the impression that we are over utilizing the fields, but really there is less soccer usage at La Cienega and Roxbury because we use the fields at the schools,” said Willmer.

The City Council has directed staff to present a revised fee structure, possibly including higher fees for non-residents.

AYSO supporter Michael Karlin said the Council divided residents and non-residents in the most unfavorable way possible, and did not take special factors into consideration. Karlin served as Region 72 commissioner from 1997-2001 and currently serves as a coach administrator, game scheduler, and webmaster.

“They’ve basically looked at registration zip codes,” said Karlin. “No one has asked us for details. They haven’t taken into

**“We would love to not charge anything at all, but the bottom line is, things that were free, are just not free anymore.**

**Everyone has to share the pain.”**

**-Marc O’Krent**

**Recreation and Parks Commission Vice Chair**

account business addresses, split families, hundreds of kids that have permits to go to school here, and registrants of parents who work here in Beverly Hills.”

In addition to the usage fee, the recommendation indicates that organizations must maintain a minimum of 60 percent resident and 40 percent non-resident participation ratio throughout the season. Organizations with a higher percentage would be assessed a fee of \$50 per non-resident player.

“One of the principles of the AYSO league is open registration, allowing anyone to participate,” said Pop.

“We are a National organization, not a City organization,” said Karlin. “We are in no position to charge registrants by where they live.”

Mirisch said he will continue to support and engage residents, including charging

problem with it, I suggest they work within their organization to change it.

O’Krent said it is not unreasonable to charge non-residents a higher price.

“Charging residents and non-residents differently is not unfair at all,” said O’Krent. “We shouldn’t fund on the backs of our residents, they should be paying less.”

Former Beverly Hills Little League president David Corwin said the proposed fees are inappropriate and sends the wrong message. Due to the different natures of each sport, he feels the Council should take other factors into consideration.

“All sports are different. The number of participants in each sport are different, and we all have different cost structures and wear and tear of fields,” said Corwin. “Baseball has more hours and less kids, we hire umpires, and we have much more equipment than soccer and basketball.”

Corwin also said while basketball is played on a court, soccer is played on a grass field where the athletes run throughout the game, which causes more damage.

Recreation and Parks staff met with each of the youth organizations to inform them of the recommendation of a user fee a week before presented to the City Council.

Karlin believes the timing of this recommendation is ridiculous.

“First of all we were given no warning. We’ve begun registration for next season, and it is simply wrong to go back and impose an additional fee,” said Karlin. “They are suddenly springing upon us what is approximately 30-40 percent of our revenue.”

AYSO revenue goes towards uniforms, balls, pictures, yearbooks, trophies, medals, and instructional materials according to Pop. Over the years, AYSO has contributed to all five BHUSD sites, including goals, paint, and Beverly’s \$150,000 field turf in 2006 and \$40,000 lights. The organization also contributes to school sites on a yearly basis and saves \$10,000 a year for repairs and replacements for fields every year.

The City Council lowered the hourly rate to \$15 an hour during the study session, however, did not come to a decision on the proposed recommendation, and instructed staff to do a fee structure. According to O’Krent, the revised fee structure may be finished later this month. O’Krent said that

each sport will be looked at, and different charges for resident and non-resident players is still on the table.

If approved by the City Council, fees would go into effect for the next fiscal year, which begins July 1, along with the City Council’s discretion.

“Youth sports is a community effort, and we actively promote that idea,” said Pop. “We hope that the council will come to a consensus.”

more for non-residents.

“It should be less expensive for residents. I do not see anything wrong with a two-tiered pricing structure,” said Mirisch. “Beverly Hills is special. If anyone has a

#### Youth Sports Fees 2009

Option #1 - Charge organizations a per hour rate of \$35/hour for all uses, inclusive of fields, gyms and other indoor uses. An additional fee of \$10 per hour for cancellation or non-use of reserved time. Organizations must maintain a minimum 60% resident/40% non-resident participant ratio throughout the season. Those organizations with a higher than 40% non-resident ratio would be assessed a fee of \$50 per non-resident player over the 40% cap.

Organization	Season Participant Registration		Season Hourly Use Fields/Facilities	Proposed \$35/hour Fee	Proposed Over 40% NR Fee		Season Fee Total	Average Cost Increase Per Participant	Post Season Hourly Use Fields/Facilities		Proposed \$35/hour Fee	Yearly Fee Total
	Resident	Non-resident			\$50	Total			Fields/Facilities	Total		
AYSO	2,319	1,123 (48%)	2,925	\$102,375	\$13,400	\$115,775	\$50	255	\$8,925	\$124,700		
Little League	704	408 (58%)	2,225	\$77,875	\$700	\$78,575	\$112	50	\$1,750	\$80,325		
Basketball League	1,305	940 (72%)	1,225	\$42,875	\$0	\$42,875	\$33	0	\$0	\$42,875		
Lacrosse Club	40	26 (64%)	118	\$4,130	\$0	\$4,130	\$103	30	\$1,050	\$5,180		
Dynamo Sports Club	32	20 (62.5%)	384	\$13,440	\$0	\$13,440	\$420	510	\$17,850	\$31,290		
Football League	30	16 (53%)	105	\$3,675	\$100	\$3,775	\$126	15	\$525	\$4,300		
Triathlon Club	19	16 (84%)	N/A									
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,449</b>	<b>2,549 (57%)</b>	<b>6,982</b>	<b>\$244,370</b>	<b>\$14,200</b>	<b>\$258,570</b>	<b>average \$141</b>	<b>860</b>	<b>\$30,100</b>	<b>\$288,670</b>		

Source: City of Beverly Hills Staff Report

Councilmember John Mirisch disagrees. Mirisch said usage fees are sound fiscal policy and the hard reality of the current economic situation is that bills need to be paid.

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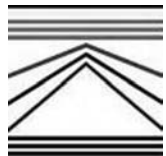
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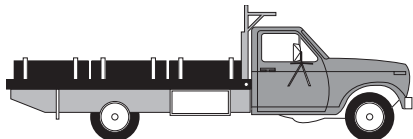
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