

NO. 47  
February 2017

# Cheviot Hills

*The greatest neighborhood in the world*



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#1

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\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSS\*\*\*\*\*

LOCAL  
Residential Postal Customer



# And the Oscar goes to...



By BEN LEE

The Academy Award nominations came out earlier in the month and I was happy to see *Hidden Figures* among the contenders for Best Picture. It was one of only three movies on the list I've seen so far and while *La La Land* seems to be racking up the most accolades, I think for me, *Hidden Figures* is the one that will stick in my mind for much longer.

If you are unfamiliar with the plot, *Hidden Figures* tells the true story of three young African American women who worked at NASA on the cusp of the civil rights movement. The ladies lived in Virginia where segregation was the law and black people were relegated to sitting at the back of the bus in addition to other daily insults and humiliations. The film spotlights the brilliance and perseverance of the three women and their historic contributions to the success of America's space program; specifically John Glenn's pioneering orbit around

the globe. Each of these three women excelled in separate fields: one was a mathematician, another an engineer and the third a computer scientist. But what they shared in common was that each of their roads was paved with unfathomable obstacles that today are almost impossible to comprehend. Their race and their gender kept them at a disadvantage and the movie probably doesn't even begin to scratch the surface regarding the injustices to which they were subjected.

Yet, despite all the hardships and unjust barriers that threatened to weaken their determination and resolve, these smart, brave and trail blazing women not only persevered, but succeeded in truly revolutionary ways.

We took our boys to see *Hidden Figures* on Martin Luther King Day because they had the day off from school and it felt like a good way to honor Dr. King's message. Kids learn a bit about black history in school but the impact of what one reads in a

book can be less than seeing stories unfold on screen. The movie presented great themes of hope that resonated with each member of my family. Despite the racism they faced, these women were ultimately honored and respected for their drive and intellect. Powerful men gave chances to those who deserved them. It glorified the USA's resolute goal of reaching for the stars (literally) and expecting the most out of those working in its service. But all of this was still set against the backdrop of what may be one of the most shameful periods in our country's history.

For our boys, the realization that this pre-civil rights era existed in their grandparent's lifetimes and not hundreds of years ago really made an impact. Just imagining that friends of theirs wouldn't be allowed to sit at the same table as them at lunch or even attend the same school helped them internalize how sick and twisted a period of time this really was.

I suppose one of the jobs as parents

is to expose our children to not just the good in life but also the bad. The hope is that by learning about the past, mistakes won't be repeated by the next generation. Politics aside, one extremely powerful aspect of the Women's March a few weeks ago was the insurance policy it seems to have over the future. Seeing millions of impassioned people coming together to join forces made me feel that if individual rights should again be threatened in the same way they were in the late 1950s/early 1960s as depicted in the film, that now there would be an organized international army of fighters who will help put a swift end to it.

I'm glad we took our sons to see this movie and even happier that what they saw on screen resonated with them. I hope the producers, actors and creative contributors take solace in the fact that even if it doesn't win an Oscar at the end of the month, the impact it has made on at least one family will last long beyond the 2017 awards season.



# My featured listings

BEN LEE - ESTATES SALES

## Cheviot Hills – ACTIVE!

5 Bed / 6 Bath 4,032 Sq.Ft. 23,416 Sq.Ft. Lot



**2789 McConnell Drive – \$6,499,000**

Step over the threshold of this phenomenal estate in Cheviot Hills and be transported to an era of grand Hollywood glamour. From its perch high atop one of the most enviable streets in the neighborhood, this magnificent Mediterranean style, 4,032 square feet (per public records) mansion on a 23,416 sq. ft lot was originally built in 1926. This home has all the makings of a fine castle on the hill. This remarkable estate includes a full, finished basement. There is also a detached and beautifully updated guest house/mother-in-law or maid's suite, garage space for 5 cars and a picturesque swimming pool that is the sparkling

jewel in the ultra-private backyard crown. The master suite has his/her walk-in closets, designer bathroom, balconies and a tranquil sitting area~ the perfect spot to sip a morning coffee while glancing at the paper. Also upstairs you'll find handsome, at-home offices that could be used as-is or easily be transformed to a nursery, gym or any space of your imagination. With an abundance of storage capabilities, all new heating/air system, updated electrical and plumbing, new roof, new sewer system and mature landscaping, this home is a stunningly private sanctuary that should be seen and admired today.

## Cheviot Hills – ACTIVE!

6 Bed/ 8 Bath 7,374 Sq. Ft. 10,521 Sq. Ft. Lot



**2788 Monte Mar Terrace – \$7,500,000**

Considered to be one of the most prestigious properties in all of Cheviot Hills, this impressive 7,374 square foot architectural masterpiece has many astounding attributes. The Claes Oldenberg inspired sculpture of a giant flower pot sets the tone for this modern style estate, in which every square inch of livable space has been thoughtfully utilized in the most intelligent way. An elevator and central staircase unites each of the four floors, harmonizing the living and recreational spaces with the 6 bedrooms, 8 bathrooms, two offices and professional grade gym. Honey-hued hardwood floors, impossibly high

ceilings, surround-sound speakers in every room, five separate zones for heating/air- every detail to the construction of this custom-designed home has been thoughtfully considered and executed with the highest quality craftsmanship. Situated on a 10,521 square foot lot in the award winning Castle Heights Elementary School District, with its' three car garage, two fireplaces, an astronomical amount of storage spaces, Eco-friendly landscaping, smart Apple systems and incomparably pristine city views, this is the absolute statement home of the neighborhood.

## Encino – ACTIVE!



**15921 Royal Oak Roads – \$5,500,000**

6 Bed 7 Bath 7,886 Sq.Ft. 54,324 Sq.Ft Lot

A traditional, Tudor style English manor on one of the most desirable streets in Encino, this massive yet tasteful property gives new meaning to the word impressive. Situated on an incredible 54,324 (a combination of 3 parcels), this 6 bedroom/7 bathroom stately mansion exudes a warm, southern charm mixed with old world sophistication. The ground floor offers a vast, formal living room with impossibly high ceilings, formal dining room with butler's pantry, wood paneled wine room, a bright conservatory/sun room, immaculate kitchen, and breakfast room with cozy brick fireplace. There is a den/study/library with wet bar and fireplace and a large en suite bedroom with his/her walk-in closets, separate vanity, and a bathroom with a sauna, sunken tub and three-headed shower. Each of the rooms on the ground floor opens up via French doors to the luxurious and wholly private, sprawling back yard that includes a pool house, guest house, full scale tennis court, beautiful swimming pool, tranquil koi pond and a cascading water feature that trickles between the mature foliage, patio and outdoor kitchen and bar. Offering a gracious motor court, three-car garage and nestled within a rustic forest of mature Oak trees and Sycamores, this majestic property must be seen to be fully appreciated.

## Cheviot Hills – COMING SOON!



**2764 Club Drive – \$3,599,000**

6 Bed 7 Bath

A tranquil, neutral palate and abundance of natural light help create the Nantucket meets Zen-like atmosphere of this newly built, spacious 6 bedroom/7 bath home in Cheviot Hills. Set behind a gate on a quiet street, this very private property offers understated luxury without compromising taste, elegance and function. Adorned with windows and basked in light, the spacious formal living room, with fireplace and a lovely view, is situated across from the formal dining room with attached outdoor balcony and large butler's pantry. This leads to the bright and open kitchen, massive pantry, generously sized island with designer pendants, wine refrigerator and unique breakfast banquet with windows overlooking both the great room as well as the beautiful backyard. Offering an oversized swimming pool, built in BBQ area, fire pit, outdoor shower and pool bathroom. Back inside and upstairs to the second level is where you'll find four of the six bedrooms, all equipped with massive closets and storage capabilities as well as beautifully designed bathrooms. A short distance from both Rancho Park and the award winning Overland School Elementary School, if you are currently looking for your next dream home, this stunning Club Drive property deserves your immediate consideration.

## Cheviot Hills – ACTIVE!



**10574 Bradbury Road – \$2,899,000**

5 Bed 5 Bath 3,708 Sq.Ft.

This stunning, Spanish style, 5 bedroom/5 bath, newly built home is nestled in the heart of Cheviot Hills and presents the utmost in luxury living. Situated behind a gate, the artfully landscaped, fully private front yard sets the stage for the elegance that is to be found beyond the front door. The formal living room has a dramatic, wood-burning fireplace and view to the enclosed front yard. The kitchen overlooks the vast and comfortable Great Room which leads to the lush and private backyard: an entertainer's dreamscape complete with salt water pool, Jacuzzi, built-in barbecue refrigerator and patio/grass space. Let the colorful, hand-painted Spanish tiles lead the way upstairs to the second level where you'll encounter 4 enormous bedrooms, 3 gorgeous bathrooms with dual vanities, picturesque balconies and a gas fireplace. Additional features of this 3,708 square foot property include: vaulted, exposed beam ceilings, two tankless water heaters, two zoned heating/air, fully wired for state-of-the-art audio and video needs with speakers already in place both in and out of the house. A stone's throw to the award winning Overland Elementary School, this property is as impressive as it is practical and is ready to welcome you home.

## Rancho Park – COMING SOON!!



**2801 Dunleer Place – \$1,699,000**

3 Bed 3 Bath 2,500 Sq.Ft. 8,100 Sq.Ft Lot

Basked in light and warmth, this nearly 2,500 square foot, mid-century house is the embodiment of a true family home. Fully renovated with high, vaulted ceilings and an open floor plan make this already large and airy space feel even grander. There is a vast family room which boasts skylights and hand crafted built-ins for storage or displays. A meticulously remodeled kitchen employs Kitchen Aid, stainless steel appliances and granite countertops. Just off the kitchen, there is a formal dining room, great for parties or just weeknight finer fare. There are beautiful bay windows throughout this 3 bedroom, 3 bathroom house allowing for sunlight to stream in to almost every room. In addition to the living and sleeping rooms, there is also an office/den and the entire home has ample closet and storage space. While the expansive and grassy backyard is a child's paradise for playtime, the side patio is perfect for parents who like to entertain. Only a five minute walk to the Westwood Expo Station and situated on an 8100 sq. foot lot, this home is only a four minute walk to the award winning Overland Elementary school and offers additional amenities such as: hard wood floors, wainscoting, a brick fireplace and central air/heat. This is a home that truly has it all.

# Now is a good time to sell.

*Please call me to find out how to prepare your home for market and learn how my team and I use the latest tools of technology to market your property better than anyone else working in real estate today.*

**2235 S. Beverly Drive - In Escrow**  
**2864 McConnell Drive - Sold**  
**10366 Cheviot Drive - Sold**  
**10367 Cheviot Drive - Sold**  
**2921 Cavendish - Pending**  
**3119 Queensbury Drive - Pending**

**FLEXIBLE ALL CASH BUYER | LOOKING FOR 8,000 SQFT+ LOT. | CALL BEN IF INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING!!**

**#1**

**BEN LEE WAS NAMED THE #1 REALTOR IN COLDWELL BANKER BEVERLY HILLS NORTH, THE #1 COLDWELL BANKER OFFICE IN THE WORLD! WE'RE READY TO BRING THE BEST TO YOUR HOME!**



# Cheviot Hills happenings

## The Westside's love of the car

By Michael Harris

The makes of the old cars of the neighborhood have largely modified over the years. In the 40's the most beautiful car was the Lincoln Continental but during the 50's the prestige mark was Cadillac. But everybody drove Detroit iron because the invasion of Toyota, Datsun (now Nissan) and the Korean cars had not begun. In the 50's "made in Japan" meant inferior quality so the cars of choice were the big gas guzzlers with chrome décor that were produced by the big three, Ford, GM and Chrysler. These companies became a little complacent so some of the quality that customers sought were provided by foreign makes. In the day there were a sprinkle of French cars such as Renault, and Citroen, but the bigger

invasion started with the English with the Rolls Royce and Bentley and the sports cars which included the Jaguar, the MG, the Austin Healy, and many others such as the Sunbeam Alpine and Talbot, the Triumph, the Jowett Jupiter, the Reilly, the Sprite and the Morgan. There were also the Italians which together with all the other foreign makes fractured the market which earlier had been almost exclusively Detroit's. But the Detroit monopoly had always been under attack. After the war the Tucker sought to revolutionize the driving experience by including seat belts, and a centered headlight that swiveled; and there was the Kaiser-Frasier which came and soon left as did the Willies, the Hudson and the Studebaker and there were also plenty of marques from the Big Three that left us: who can forget the Lincoln Zepher,



1942 Lincoln Continental Cabriolet

the LaSalle, the De Soto, and many others which could not hold market share. So while the West Side has always relied on the personal automobile despite the Airdrome Bus

and the red cars we may soon see a future with more use of bicycles, public transportation and solar and fuel cell vehicles powered by hydrogen to bring us into a less polluted future.

## Have a Yen to enter the Raffle?

By BEN LEE

Thank you to all those who entered this month's raffle! Congratulations to Linda Adatto! You are the lucky winner of a \$50 gift certificate to everyone's favorite neighborhood pet store: Trixie's Pet Depot on Pico. Hope you and your pet(s) enjoy! If we didn't pull your name from the hat this time, don't worry! There is always another chance to win. This month we are giving away a \$50 gift certificate to

Yen Sushi on Pico. My family goes to this restaurant all the time. It's not only delicious, but with a menu that offers a wide variety of Japanese food, it's a good place to take your kids, too. To win this give away, just send me an email ([ben@benleeproperties.com](mailto:ben@benleeproperties.com)) and write YEN SUSHI in the subject line or give me a call: 310-858-5489 and let me know you're entering the raffle. We will draw a name at random at the end of the month. Thanks for entering and good luck!



## Front and Center

By BEN LEE

If you are looking for a pre-Valentine's activity that is open to the public and fun for the whole family, check out The Front and Center Theatre Extravaganza: A Showcase of Theatre Arts Education. This evening of interactive entertainment will highlight how arts organizations are

collaborating to collectively impact the community and will offer performances from the Actors' Gang, Center Theatre Group, Story Pirates, We Tell Stories, Young Storytellers and 24th Street Theatre. Free of charge and starting at 6pm (food will be available for purchase, however, starting at 5pm), this event will take place on Friday, February 10th at the Veterans Memorial Complex located at 4117 Overland Avenue in Culver City. For more information, call (310) 842-4220, ext. 4212 or Email: [ccef@ccusd.org](mailto:ccef@ccusd.org)

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