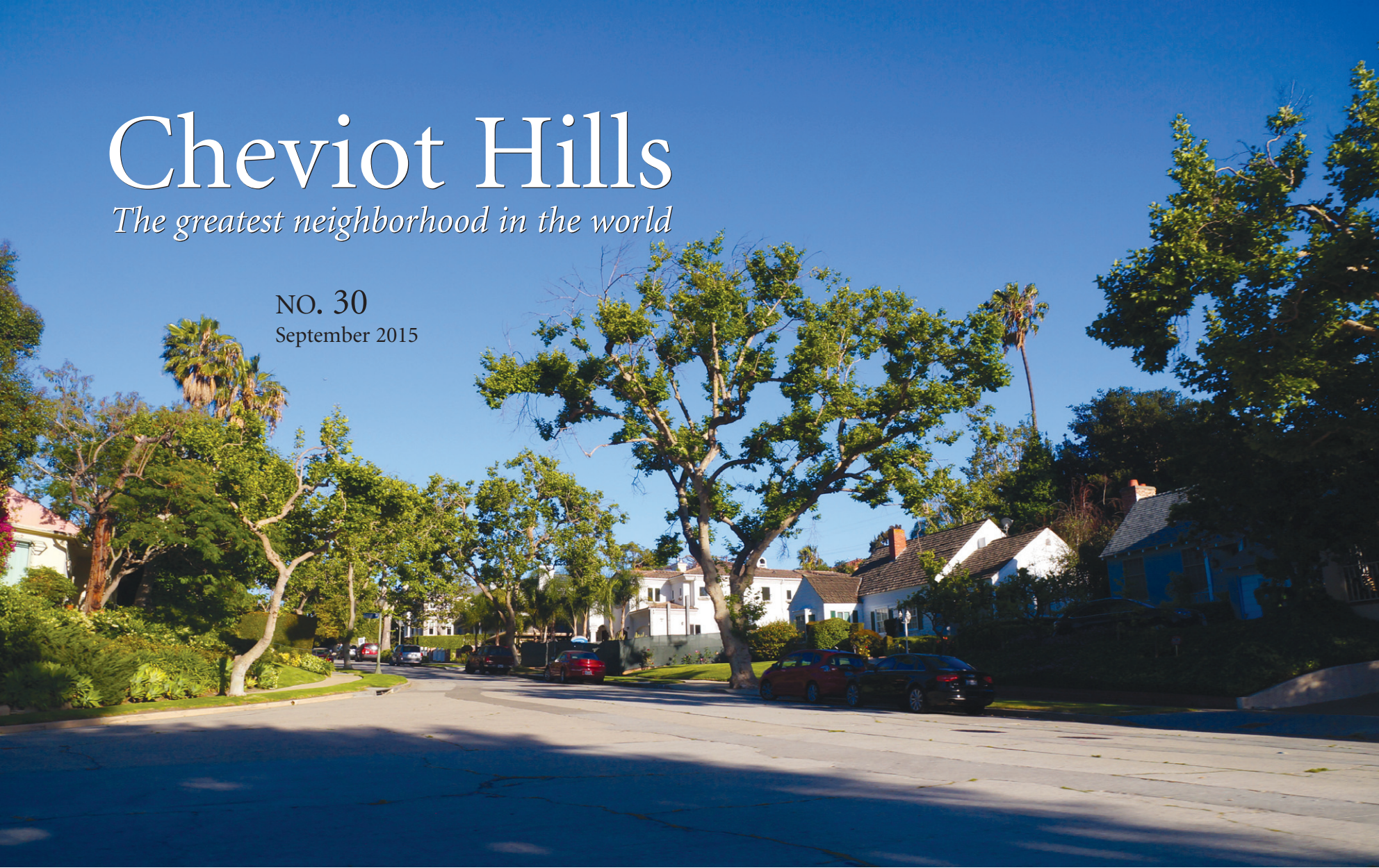


Cheviot Hills

The greatest neighborhood in the world

NO. 30
September 2015





#10

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PRSRT STD
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Stranger than Fiction

By BEN LEE

It's not every day you're walking through the market and are confronted by a headline so salacious you almost have to do a double take. But that's exactly what happened to me when I was at the market down on National, picking up ice for my son's birthday party and saw the magazine Closer (never heard of it before) with a big picture of actor Lorenzo Lamas and a headline that screamed in bold letters: "MY WIFE GAVE BIRTH TO MY GRANDSON!" I'm slightly embarrassed to admit that I had to buy the magazine so I could understand how in the world this was humanly possible. To tell you the truth, if it were any random actor I might not actually have cared too much, however, Lorenzo Lamas' involvement piqued my interest considering his family is part of Cheviot Hills' history. Lamas' mother is noted actress Arlene Dahl. She was one of MGM's most celebrated leading ladies in the 1940's and '50's. Before she had Lorenzo, she was married to another actor, Lex Barker and together they made their home on Glenbarr Avenue in Cheviot Hills. These famous icons of another era also happened to live next door to my father-in-law and his family. Once in a while a relative would share an anecdote related to how beautiful Arlene Dahl was in person or how they would sometimes hear music coming from one of her glamorously star-studded parties.

It's possible I was just bored by being at the market that day, but seeing a headline that involved my father-in-law's former Cheviot Hills' neighbor's son did spark my interest. I read the article and, as strange as it sounds, it turned out that the story was in fact true. According to an interview he gave to the magazine, Lorenzo Lamas' fifth wife Shawna served as a surrogate for his daughter, Shayne. Shayne was unable to have children so Shawna, an aspiring actress, stepped up to carry the baby as the ultimate gift to her new daughter



and son-in-law. Lamas told the magazine that it was a win-win situation since he had no desire to add to the six children he already had, yet his new wife Shawna wanted to experience pregnancy. And now, after a July 4th delivery, their grandbaby is living with Lamas' daughter and her husband

and everyone is due to live happily-ever-after. As far as Lorenzo Lamas is concerned, he no longer has relatives in Cheviot Hills, however you may spot him flying above his old house on Glenbarr since he currently works as a helicopter pilot when he's in between acting jobs.

And the moral of the story is: sometimes you can judge a 'book' (or tabloid magazine) by its cover, truth is often stranger than fiction and when it comes to the type of market I like... let's just agree it's real estate. I have no desire to return to a grocery store any time soon!

My featured listings

BEN LEE - ESTATES SALES



Beverlywood — ACTIVE!

A spectacular home in Beverlywood, this 5 bedroom/3.5 bathroom, recently remodeled, two-story traditional is a sight to behold. Originally built in 1941, but fully updated just a few years ago, this home offers sumptuous details such as: all hardwood floors, crowned moldings, large and spacious bedrooms, sweeping views, Bay windows, formal wainscoting, and so much more. The chef's kitchen has stainless steel appliances, granite countertops with designer backsplash, a convenient breakfast bar and an attached formal dining room. The spacious family room is sunny and bright with built-in cabinetry and ample space for family entertainment. There is a picture-perfect fireplace that anchors the formal living room, along with a built-in wine-bar with stainless steel wine and beverage refrigerators. Up the dramatic staircase, one will find the master bedroom suite complete with high peaked ceilings and master bathroom with dual sinks in the marble topped vanity and a sunken spa tub. There is a whimsical children's wing with a Jack-and-Jill bathroom and every inch of this home had a designer's eye in mind. This philosophy extends to the outdoors where you'll experience a highly stylish outdoor black and white covered patio in addition to a lovely stretch of grass for kids to use and enjoy. The patio, which connects through the kitchen and through the family room, provides for great indoor/outdoor living and entertaining. Located in the Canfield school district, this home just may be your next dream come true.

9500 Sawyer St

— Offered at \$2,399,000

Cheviot Hills

— FOR LEASE



Situated on a large corner lot in the heart of old Cheviot Hills, this authentic Spanish style, three bedroom/three bath over 3000 square foot home is an updated original that demands your attention. Fully redone to appeal to today's modern family, every detail in this home has been refreshed to suit both comfort and need. Each of the upstairs bedrooms is quite grand in size, and boasts en suite bathroom, balcony with a view, and two separate closets per room. Downstairs, the kitchen has been fully renovated with brand new appliances, cook top, hood, quartz countertops and refinished cabinetry. This comfortable and luxurious home built on a 8000+ sq foot lot in the Overland School District should be seen and appreciated today!

10450 Dunleer Dr —

Offered at \$7,100 per month

Cheviot Hills

— NEW CONSTRUCTION



Imagine an idyllic oasis in the heart of Cheviot Hills. Featuring brand new, top-of-the-line construction that is setting the standard of excellence for homes in our area. This work of art (in progress) from Diamond West Distinctive Homes promises to be nothing short of exquisite. A grander expression of the Traditional style, and set back but flush with the street allowing for access with ease, the beauty of this nearly 5700 square foot, 6 bedroom/7 bathroom home will stun you from the onset. Featuring a formal living room, formal dining room, family room and entertainment loft, the soaring, vaulted entryway will bask the entire two-story home in light. This property will be nothing short of an architectural triumph that will make any family proud to call home.

2921 Cavendish Dr —

Offered at \$5,250,000

Cheviot Hills

— NEW CONSTRUCTION



This brand new 4,449 sq. ft. home in the Cheviot Hills area sit on a 7,567 sq. ft. lot. This two story home is designed with a Cape Cod inspired facade featuring colonial windows with shutters and planter shelves, paneled french doors, a trellised upstairs balcony and a covered downstairs porch. Inside is an expansive and modern floor plan with central air conditioning, a study, playroom and a gourmet kitchen with island. There are four bedrooms upstairs and another bedroom downstairs. The master suite has a fireplace, access to the upstairs balcony, his and her walk in closets, dual vanities, a free standing tub and a spacious shower. Located on a corner lot adjacent to Rancho Park Golf Course with city skyline views.

10452 Lorenzo Pl —

Offered at \$4,500,000

Beverlywood

— ACTIVE!



A delightful and bright, traditional style family home on an approx. 7500 lot in the Beverlywood HOA, this 3 bedroom, 2.75 bathroom house offers plenty of fine features! This home has a picturesque view, supple hardwood floors, two fireplaces, a formal living room, dining room and family room. The kitchen is light and cheerful and has a connected laundry facility. There is a unique sunroom/conservatory with a staircase and one floor down you will find a spacious in-laws' suite. The bathrooms and kitchen could withstand some upgrading to create your absolute dream home in a fantastic, family friendly neighborhood.

1565 Reeves Street —

Offered at \$1,749,000

Westwood

— IN ESCROW



1740 Malcolm Ave #103

Sherman Oaks

— IN ESCROW



3780 Regal Vista Drive

Castle Heights

— IN ESCROW



9415 Kramerwood Pl

Westside

— IN ESCROW



2514 S Bundy Dr

Culver City

— IN ESCROW



4249 East Blvd #1

Beverlywood

— IN ESCROW



2245 Hillsboro Ave

Cheviot Hills happenings

Traveling with Gradchildren

By Michael Harris

Grandparents on an extended trip with the grandchildren and their parents are like referees at a football game: they can keep the players in line, but they cannot avoid controversy. The role of the grandparent is not to repeat the mistakes they made with their own children and certainly not to countermand or improve on the parenting skills of their children. The role of the grandparent should be to give context, flavor and institutional memory to the grandchildren. The grandchild needs to know the history first-hand of where he came from and what forces, places, and events shaped his origins. That is where a grandparent can shine: by showing the old photo albums, naming the unfamiliar and departed relatives, and depicting the continuum

that should result in that grandchild's heightened sense of self. Then from the sidelines a grandparent can appreciate the shaping of the grandchild. This may be too general a reflection on grandparenthood as there may be situations where the grandparent must fill in for a parent and when a great grandparent may need to fill the institutional history role. Perhaps the grandparent supplies the cultural context and guides by example while the parent must concentrate on the child's physical well-being. In fact, each situation may be different, except that one thing should be universal: the major ingredient of a grandparent's contribution to the forming of the grandchild is the unimpeded and unrestricted love and affection to support every doubt or trouble that every grandchild must inevitably confront.



Crackin' the (E)-Books

By BEN LEE

So, in addition to handling all of your real estate transactions, whether you're in the market to buy a home or looking to sell one, I'm excited about my newest venture: entering the world of E-books. My team and I have been hard at work creating content that has been turned into downloadable books. Topics are all real estate related and range from

offering tips on how to find your dream home, to ideas on how to effortlessly move with children. There's also an E-book that shares ten ways to get your home sold quickly! The E-books are totally free of charge and I'd love to know what you think of them. Just contact Casey@BenLeeProperties.com and she'll send you a copy that you can download on your computer. Hope you enjoy!

RAFFLE

By BEN LEE

Thank you to all those who entered our raffle to win a \$50 gift certificate to the Palms area hot spot: The Garage on Motor. Congratulations to Claudia Yrineo, you are the lucky winner!! Get ready to rev your engines and enjoy all the burgers, brews, salads and fries a \$50 gift certificate can buy. And speaking of burgers, this month we are raffling off a gift certificate to one of the most historic and delicious establishments in

West LA: The Apple Pan! Serving up the finest burgers, fries and pies since 1947—if you've never been, well that is just a crime. To enter to win a \$50 gift certificate to The Apple Pan, simply send an email to: Ben@Benleeproperties.com and write 'APPLE PAN' in the subject line. Please let us know your first/last name and the best way to reach you should yours be the winning entry. We will draw a winner at random at the end of September and notify you immediately after. Good luck!!!

10 Step Guide:

How To Get Your Home Sold Quickly!

