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# Boys of Summer

By BEN LEE

Looking at my boys is like looking in a mirror so there's no doubt they are my genetic offspring, however, sometimes their interests are so different than mine, it's easy to wonder how we can actually be related. When I was the age of my eldest, all I cared about was seeing bands. I wasn't too into sports (that came later when I discovered water polo in high school) but when it came to seeing concerts, I was a boy obsessed. My father took me to my first arena show in 1987: Pink Floyd at the LA Sports Arena and I loved every second of it. Seeing all the fans, sharing in the excitement of watching idols take the stage, hearing those first guitar notes and witnessing the amazing light shows Pink Floyd was famous for. Feeling those voices float above each of the thousands of people who were all experiencing it together. After that fateful evening, I made it my mission to get tickets for all the great shows that came to town. The Rolling Stones and the Who were two of my favorites but sometimes it was even more fun to go to the secret shows: like Stone Temple Pilots at the Viper Room or catching Jane's Addiction at the Roxy, so close to the stage you could practically reach out and touch them. Seeing shows was my everything.

This is not to say that my boys don't appreciate music. They're trying and still learning. When I drive them around town, they listen to and seem to enjoy much of the classic rock I was raised on so I'm hopeful they'll at least

get a balance to all the Top 40 (junk ?) and Broadway stuff my wife subjects them to. What flabbergasts yet comforts me is the same razor focus I applied to seeing rock shows is now presenting itself in our son, Mason. He absolutely shares that same intensity I channeled into getting tickets but instead of heading to see a band at the Fabulous Forum or Rose Bowl, Mason's tickets are to cheer for his idols: the boys in blue at Dodger Stadium. Attempting to get seats this year for Opening Day at Dodger's Stadium reminded me of all those stressful times back in the 90s, wracking my brain over how to see Nirvana. Mason loves the Dodgers just as much as I loved Kurt Cobain so I understood his need to get there no matter what. We thought of everyone we knew who could help and pored over the various online ticket sites looking for deals. We analyzed seat locations (he's as specific with where he prefers to sit as I once was), calculated risk of truancy and did everything short of sleeping out on the sidewalk overnight and getting a wristband at the local Ticketmaster.

In the end, we hit the homerun and managed to snag some tickets and, just like my father did for me many years ago, I have made my son's dream come true. Whether the Dodgers win or lose on April 6, I know that the memories my son has from that Opening Day will last a lifetime. Seeing all the fans, sharing in the excitement of watching his idols take the stage/mound/outfield. Hearing that first crack of the bat and witnessing the



amazing camaraderie his beloved Dodgers are famous for. Catching a foul ball would certainly be nice, too.

I might not understand his preference of seeing baseball over bands and maybe passions skip

generations. One thing is for sure, though: I'm happy when I can indulge my son's enthusiasm and even happier relishing the times I can share with him. Speaking of relish... another Dodger Dog, please!

## Local Boy Made Good

By BEN LEE

Beverlywood resident, Hamilton High senior and baseball player extraordinaire Dalton Blumenfeld, is the perfect example of how good things can come from years of hard work, dedication and lots of practice. We caught up with Dalton a few months shy of needing to decide between playing baseball in college or perhaps moving directly to the minor leagues. Either way, for a local

hometown hero, it's a very exciting dilemma to have.

Dalton grew up playing on the sunny ball fields of Rancho Park. For nine years he climbed the ranks from T-ball to Pony league, even following in the footsteps of his father Paul who played ball in the same park back in the late '60s. Paul explains that choosing this league was a no-brainer. "We always liked Cheviot. It was close to home, had a good atmosphere, good vibe." And Dalton credits the league's

willingness to allow him to grow as a young athlete with helping him hone his skill and love for the game. After a brief stint in the outfield as a preteen, Dalton quickly started showing strength in all areas of the sport. Says Dalton, "I started pitching, catching, playing first..." He also played other sports such as soccer and basketball but once he turned twelve, he knew that he wanted to focus solely on baseball. "I had dreamed of being a major league baseball player and

people were telling me if you keep working hard, you could have a chance. Today, looking back at it, it's crazy." Paul recalled the time his son accidentally broke his nose during a game. Paul raced him up to the hospital to get stitches and Dalton was in tears. Not from the pain but because all he wanted to do was make it back in time to finish the game. He did go back that day. He wasn't allowed to



# My featured listings

BEN LEE - ESTATES SALES

## Beverlywood – ACTIVE!



An enchanting property perched above a quiet and family friendly street in Beverlywood, this 3 BR/2.5 BA home offers many features iconic to homes of the era without compromising modern day conveniences. You will be charmed by the home's intricate crowned moldings, hardwood floors, marble fireplace and beautiful views. The 3 bedrooms and baths are large and comfortable, closets in the bedrooms are built-in, including Italian designed Polyform Custom closets in the master. French doors connect the master bedroom to the ultra-private backyard, ideal for entertaining thanks to a variety of seating areas and built-in fire pit. A spacious room downstairs (with attached half bath) can be used for a number of purposes: gym, office, housekeeper or guests. With central air/heat, a two-car garage, and a multitude of closets and storage capabilities, this comfortable family house in the award winning Castle Heights School district is just waiting for you to move right in.

9600 Bolton Rd. – Offered at \$1,749,000

## Beverlywood – IN ESCROW!



Traditional style 3 BR/2 BA home w/ hardwood flrs, crowned moldings & 2 fireplaces. The dining room leads to the kitchen which overlooks the family room. The kitchen has been upgraded with new stainless appliances & island range. The large master offers an office nook & redone bathroom. The home has environmental upgrades such as rooftop solar panels, tankless water heater, 220 volt electric car charger in the garage, double paned windows, smart thermostat & roof that's less than five years old.

9711 Cisco St. – Offered at \$1,199,000

## Cheviot Hills – SHORT TERM LEASE!



Charming Cheviot Cottage. This 3 Bedroom / 2.5 Bath fully furnished home boasts a beautifully updated kitchen with quartz counters, new sink, brand new appliances and flooring plus freshened cabinets. There is a spacious living area with 2 decorative fireplaces and original hardwood floors. The large den is located off of the living room and kitchen and features a wall of built ins. Upstairs you'll find 3 bedrooms also with hardwood floors plus 2 baths with updated fixtures. Out into the bright and private back yard there is a covered patio plus a large brick patio perfect for gathering your family and friends. Steps from Club Circle and Irving Schachter Parks.

2840 McConnell Dr. – Offered at \$6,000 p/mo.

## Palms – REDUCED!



Encounter this stately and modern style architecturally superior property in one of the finest, most desirable parts of Mar Vista Hill and know you've found your next home. With breathtaking views and a designer's eye towards décor and detail, this 4 bedroom/ 3.5 bath, two-story fully upgraded home offers much in the way of modern amenities. A formal foyer with impossibly high ceilings and custom White Oak flooring leads to the living room with fireplace, bar and wine refrigerator. Impeccable kitchen with Viking appliances and custom Zebrawood cabinetry also offers a gorgeous island that beckons family members or guests to dine. Upstairs, be impressed by the master suite, complete with an attached deck that showcases incredible views of the city. The bedroom also offers a walk-in closet and exquisite bathroom from which to contemplate the amazing views. This is a truly beautiful home that must be seen to fully appreciate.

3635 Inglewood Blvd. – Offered at \$1,650,000

## Beverlywood Adjacent – IN ESCROW!



3 bedroom/ 2.5 bath

1304 Roxbury #102 – Call for more info:

## Cheviot Hills – FOR LEASE!



Cheviot Hills traditional located on a superb, tree-lined street! Charming and quaint home boasts 2 large bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, formal living and dining room, eat in kitchen, hardwood floors, central heat and a lot of character. Large living room has a romantic, brick fireplace and French doors that lead out to a private backyard, complete with a party-perfect fire pit. This 1512 sq ft home is situated in the coveted Castle Heights elementary school district and provides a terrific opportunity to move into this neighborhood at an affordable price!

10290 Cheviot Dr. – Offered at \$5,000 p/mo.



# Cheviot Hills happenings



## DALTON

FROM PAGE 2

play but still returned, bandages and all, to cheer on his team.

The relationships Dalton formed while playing baseball as a child also helped fuel his love of the sport. “Most of my childhood friends I made here at Cheviot,” Dalton went on to explain that many of those same guys are still playing together at Hamilton where Dalton is the star catcher of the Varsity team. Professional scouts are fixtures at his games. He’s attended showcases and pro-workouts which has been a thrill. “It’s really exciting,” says Dalton. “It’s really exciting to be invited to these things. Not too many kids are given this opportunity.”

Dalton has already made it over the first hurdle. Two years ago, Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles offered him a full scholarship to play ball starting as a college freshman in the fall. He will also participate in the professional draft this coming June. His proud dad explains, “He will have two great options on the table and ultimately it will be his decision to make and I know whatever decision he makes will be a great one. We’ll support him no matter what.”

We met up with Dalton on his old stomping grounds: the mustang field of Rancho Park. He was quickly recognized by former coaches and the on-duty umpire who greeted this former Cheviot Hills ballplayer with smiles and well-wishes. Parents as well as current players came by to say hi. Our boys (and their best friend) were lucky enough to get Dalton to sign their baseballs.

Whatever happens after the June draft, whether Dalton chooses to go pro or go to college, he has sage advice for the many young players who see his accomplishments and dream about following in his footsteps. First and foremost, he encourages all young athletes to keep their grades up. He also says to listen to your parents because it’s easy to make bad choices and parents help keep you on the right path. Speaking specifically to the game of baseball, Dalton believes it’s never too soon to begin. “Start at a young age and keep working hard. It’s not easy to get to where I am right now. I trained everyday. You’ve got to do it. You’ve got to put in the work.” He goes on to advise, “Never get down on yourself. It’s a game of failure. Baseball is a game of failure. You’re going to fail seven out of ten times. But,” he added, “You’re still an all-star.”



## Time to camp

By BEN LEE

Talk about hometown pride! Cheviot Hills native Charlie Bennett loves his town so much, he’s tattooed it onto his arm. We met Charlie during the Cheviot Hills Pony Baseball Opening Day ceremonies where he was promoting his summer camp: Prime Time Sports. Around for 25 years and with a camper to staff ratio of 6:1, Prime Time has much to offer its 4-14 year old boys and girls including a variety of sports, special events and favorite games like capture the flag and hula hooping! Iverbe Sports Camp was also represented that day at Opening Ceremonies and Iverbe is where our boys have gone for the last few years. It’s been a really great

experience for our family. Terrific coaches, well organized activities, fun co-campers and the best part of all: lunch from Marty’s is included! We can also vouch for Sandy Days if you’d like your kids to have the ultimate beach camp experience.

Maybe you are considering an overnight camp for your kids this year? You may want to call Cheviot Hills resident Jill Levin. She’s the west coast advisor for Tips on Trips and Camps and calls herself a travel agent for kids. It’s a service that is absolutely free of charge and she will advise parents about what may be the best match for an overnight camp experience for their children and teens, ages 8-18. For more information, contact Jill at: 310-202-8448 or [Jill@Tipsontripsandcamps.com](mailto:Jill@Tipsontripsandcamps.com)

## This month’s Raffle

By BEN LEE

Thank you to everyone who entered the VERY popular raffle to win the \$50 gift certificate to the fabulous Children’s Book World. Alas, there can be just one winner and the honors go to Joelle Casady. Congratulations!

If you happened to enter but did not win this time, don’t worry- there’s always another raffle waiting for you! Who’s got the best biscuits in town?? Who treats its guests waiting for a table to free coffee on the patio? You

guessed it: John O’Groats! It’s one of Rancho Park’s favorite breakfast spots and \$50 dollars could be yours to spend if you enter and win! Simply email [ben@benleeproperties.com](mailto:ben@benleeproperties.com) and write: JOHN O’GROATS in the subject line. Also let us know your name and the best way to reach you. We will draw a winner at random April 25th.

Thank you and good luck (and don’t forget to spread that homemade jam on your biscuits. Nothing’s better!).



**BEN LEE**  
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