



NO. 23
February 2015

Cheviot Hills

The greatest neighborhood in the world



BEN LEE

PROPERTIES

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Love is in the air



By BEN LEE

It's that time of year again. You know what I'm talking about- the time when the line for See's Candy is wrapped around the block and the local florists (or bins at Trader Joe's) suddenly deplete their inventory. For the last several years, our Valentine's Day celebration has evolved from a romantic dinner for two to more of a family affair. We usually give our boys a special out-of-season fruit treat that they (shockingly) get as excited about as the inevitable chocolate. But just in case they still need their sugar fix, luckily that's where their classroom comes in. Every year, they come home from school with big buckets and bags full of sweet treats. If you don't have school aged children, you may be surprised to learn that if a child wants to give a valentine to a friend, the whole class needs to receive something, too. That's roughly 25-30 treats. If you are blessed with three children as am I, that's a whole lot of candy coming home! But beyond the calorie influx and risk of cavities, it's also nice to see the personalized notes and retro-style valentines that are attached to the goody bags. And even though

everyone gets one, once in a while there's something in the haul from the special someone who makes our boys blush a bit. Nothing is cuter than that.

If romance is on the menu, we are lucky to live in a city that offers many options for those who want to celebrate Valentine's Day a deux. So many restaurants around town have special menus for the evening. The fabulous Bucato in Culver City is offering the forbidden foie gras among other delicacies. East Borough, another Culver City favorite, has a four-course tasting menu with wine pairings for the rather affordable \$45 a person. Being in a couple is great, of course, but if you're going solo this Valentine's Day, then the Single Awareness Day (SAD) at Tom Bergin's may be more your

scene: a fun bar menu and reduced priced drinks are all part of the fun this February 14th. Here's an idea if you can't find a sitter and are looking to spend the evening with the kids: why not catch a performance of Hamilton High Music Academy's production of Beauty and the Beast? There's an evening performance on the 14th and it's perfect for the entire family.

However you choose to spend Valentine's Day, 2015, I hope you have a nice evening. And here's an offer from me to you: If the line at See's Candy is too long, you can always come by my house and I can sneak out some chocolate from the boys' bags. Because, really, nothing says, 'I love you,' better than a fancy foie gras dinner followed by a box of Sweet Tarts.



My featured listings

BEN LEE - ESTATES SALES

Palms – JUST LISTED!



Co-listed with Jodi Ticknor and Chris Kito

3635 Inglewood Blvd. – Offered at \$1,850,000

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.

Beverlywood – COMING SOON!



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

An enchanting property, perched above a quiet and family friendly street in Beverlywood, this 3 bedroom/2.5 bath home offers many features iconic to homes of this era without compromising modern day conveniences. We invite you to be charmed by the home's intricate crowned moldings, hardwood floors, original light fixtures, marble fireplace and beautiful views. The three bedrooms and bathrooms are large and comfortable, closets in the bedrooms are built-in, including Italian designed Poliform 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, living room surround sound, 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.

Cheviot Hills — FOR LEASE!



2840 McConnell Dr.
Available for Short Term

Cheviot Hills — IN ESCROW!



10559 Cheviot Dr.
Offered at \$1,979,000

Cheviot Hills — IN ESCROW!



10550 Roundtree Rd.
Offered at \$3,149,000

Cheviot Hills happenings



COOL SCHOOLS

By BEN LEE

I'm always honored when booster clubs ask me to donate because I'm proud to live in a neighborhood surrounded by so many terrific public schools. I also know how important it is for these schools to fundraise and if I can help contribute to the great education our neighborhood children are getting, I'm happy to do so. Ben Lee Properties sponsors the raffle for Castle Heights' Spring Event. First and second place winners receive 1,000 and 500 dollars respectively and tickets are sold for a dollar with all proceeds benefiting the school. The winner is selected on March 7 at the school's silent auction (and winners

need not be present). Visit the website to learn more about attending or purchasing raffle tickets. <http://www.castleheightselementary.org/spring/>

I am also a sponsor of Overland Elementary's Spring Auction which is being held a week later (March 14) at the Beverly Hills Country Club.

In January, I was happy to present a donation check to Sheri Werner, principal of the City School, a local public charter middle school, currently serving 350 students from grades 6th-8th. City School is a terrific alternative to public- students get in via lottery and a high school campus is in its near future.

Movie Review- Mr. Turner disappoints

By Michael Harris

Mike Leigh is a director who does not like to spell things out. So in this film we find the renowned painter of marine scenes as a terrible father and husband, who has a father who apparently supports him to some extent so he can dabble with his housekeeper while poking his nose at the academicians of the day including Constable and the art establishment, and while taking up in a more or less domestic household with his landlady under an assumed name. All of this is

gleaned and not a matter of direct exposition but the scenery and the costumes and settings makes it somewhat worthwhile. There is a diversion with the effeminate but perceptive Ruskin who appreciates the Turner style. The picture is over-all a bit too diffident and reminds me of the old saw that it is like watching the artist's paint dry.



UNDERGRIND RAFFLE- FREE COFFEE

By BEN LEE

Crowd source funding has become quite a phenomenon for good. Palms Middle School raised over 20,000 to purchase new computers thanks to generous donations that poured in, some from strangers with no connection to the school. Robertson Boulevard's newest and cutest coffee house, the Undergrind Café, can also thank anonymous supporters for making it possible for this family-owned business to open its doors only a few months ago. An unforeseen snafu caused a delay before Rachel and Ron Sazon were about to open and they turned to Kickstarter to raise funds. So many community members, thirsty for a local and independent coffee/breakfast/lunch spot, donated over \$13,000 to help this husband and wife team realize their dream. Now it's your turn to visit this lovely coffee house and support a great neighborhood business! Ben Lee Properties is giving away a \$50 gift certificate to Undergrind Café. Offering a variety of beverages and delicious breakfast and lunch selections, the Undergrind Café (located at 2713 South Robertson



Blvd.) will be your new, favorite place to meet. To enter, please email Ben@benleeproperties.com and write 'UNDERGRIND' in the subject line. Include your name and the best way to contact you in the body of the email. A winner will be selected at random February 25th.

Thank you to all those who entered our FOOD raffle last month. It was our most popular offering yet! Out of the hundreds who entered, Kelley Reyonlds was the lucky winner. Congratulations, Kelley, and happy eating!!

BASEBALL BEGINS!

By BEN LEE

It's time to grab some popcorn and Crackerjacks because baseball in Cheviot Hills is about to begin. If you have a child who is interested in playing, you should go to the Cheviot Hills Pony Baseball Association's website to learn more about getting your son or daughter involved: chpba.org. There are a few spaces left so don't delay. Maybe you're more of a spectator? Opening ceremonies will be held at Rancho Park on February 28th so if you're looking for an all American baseball experience without the hassle of overpriced tickets and crowded parking lots, come on out to the ball field at Rancho and cheer on these enthusiastic neighborhood kids.

