



NO. 3
June 2013

NO. 3
June 2013

Cheviot Hills

The greatest neighborhood in the world



BEN LEE
PROPERTIES
Real Estate Broker • Licensed Attorney
www.BenLeeProperties.com
(310) 858-5489

Please call me if you would like any real estate help or information.

PRSRT STD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM Retail

*****ECRWSS****

LOCAL
Residential Postal Customer



Getting a move on

By BEN LEE

MOVING. The very word conjures up feelings of either excitement or total and utter panic.

My family has spent most of the month balanced somewhere between the two emotions. On the one hand, we are very excited to start fresh in a newer, larger house that we created from the ground up. It's on a lovely street and only a few blocks from where we now live in Cheviot Hills. Inhabiting this new home, however, is the light at the end of the proverbial tunnel. Before getting to live there, much work in our current home had to be done.

Unless you are the one in a million who lives in an immaculate home with zero flaws, for the rest of the 99.9 percent of us, getting a house into

shape before selling it can be all consuming. Eliminating clutter, touching up paint, sprucing up the landscaping and keeping it neat is no easy task, especially if you have young children.

We had actually done a good job maintaining the infrastructure of our 1920s home but still asked Julie Manz, a professional stager that is part of my team, to assess what we had to do to get the inside ready for "show time."

She walked my wife and I from room to room and like a general on the battlefield, authoritatively commanded what furniture should stay and what should go. She pointed out dings that needed repairing and personal artifacts that had no business being on display for the world to see. Yes, this is my profession and I am an expert in all matters real estate, however, you know

what they say about doctors being the worst patients? When it comes to turning a critical eye to my own home, it was hard to be impartial especially when every item I own is a beautiful, treasured piece of priceless perfection!

Clearly we needed serious marching orders and Julie whipped us into shape. It actually felt good to let go of some things we had no use for and weeks after starting this process, on our first Sunday open, our beautiful home was almost unrecognizable it was so pristine. We received multiple offers that day and felt the success was in large part due to our preparing as best we could to present the finest product possible.

Our house sold quickly (the easy part), but the next obstacle: to continue the arduous task of further decluttering before actually boxing everything up to move out. My wife

would not entertain my usual delaying tactic of saying, "Let's just pack it all and we'll deal with it when we get there."

Nope — the time to get rid of everything non-essential and non-sentimental was now. Not an easy task but the reward would be worth the effort. It would feel so good to move to our clean slate of a home and start amassing all priceless, perfect treasures all over again. Because that's what we do. We collect, we admire, we enjoy, we put in the garage and then we forget until the next time we decide to move. Hopefully, though, we are officially settled down and won't have to go through this again for a long time. When it's all said and done, the destination will be worth all the trouble, but getting there really isn't half the fun.

STUNNING SPANISH RETREAT

10525 Ayres Ave.
Cheviot Hills. Los Angeles, CA

You enter this Spanish style, 1930's home on Ayres in Rancho Park and the cozy warmth that envelops you is immediate.

Charming and original architectural details specific to homes of this era are

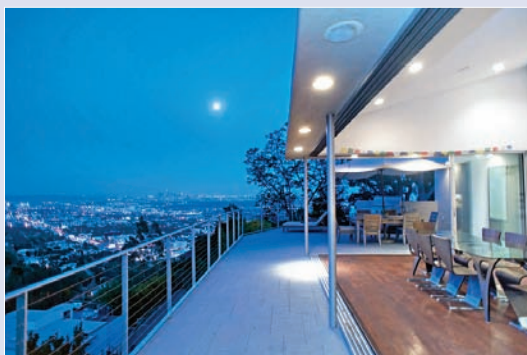
on display even before crossing the threshold. Beautiful tile work, a romantic fire place, coved ceilings, crown moldings and hardwood floors are just a few of the personal touches that puts this home in a class by itself. Pretty views from the formal living room create a bright and airy atmosphere that extends past the formal dining room and through to the large eat-in kitchen with breakfast banquette that overlooks the lovely backyard.

Another notable feature includes the approximately 500 square foot separate mother-in-law suite/guest quarters built off to the side of the backyard. This structure has its own bathroom and kitchenette and can be used for independent living or perhaps just a quiet, private sanctuary-like escape. In convenient and close proximity to the shops and restaurants on Pico, this 3 bedroom, 1 1/2 bathroom home in the highly desirable Overland Elementary school district will make any family happy to come home.

Offered at \$1,275,000



OTHER FEATURED LISTINGS



NEW LISTING!
1710 Crisler Way – Hollywood Hills
\$2,600,000



NEW LISTING!
10392 Tennessee Avenue –
Westwood - Century City, CA \$2,199,000



FOR LEASE!
2890 Forrester Drive – Cheviot Hills, CA
\$12,500/month

Cheviot Hills happenings

Palms-Rancho Park Library

2920 Overland Ave.

Los Angeles, Calif., 90064

www.lapl.org

June 5

Bottle Cap Magnet Workshop

4 p.m. — 5 p.m.

Makeover your fridge! Design your own bottle cap magnets! All teens (ages 11-19) welcome.

June 6

Reading Is So Delicious 'Entertain Yourself' Hour

4 p.m. — 5 p.m.

Read, write, draw — you'll be on your way to your first prize! Get signed up for the Summer Reading Club!

June 8

Pre-School Storytime

10:30 a.m. — 11 a.m.

Stories, songs, rhymes and other activities to promote early literacy. Recommended for children ages 3 through 6.

June 8

Great Ideas in Philosophy

3:30 p.m. — 5:30 p.m.

This taped lecture series by Prof. Daniel N. Robinson of Oxford University and The Teaching Company introduces the main currents and issues in philosophical thought from ancient Greece to the contemporary world. Each session includes time for questions and discussion. Previous knowledge of philosophy is not necessary.

June 11

Friends of the Library

6:30 p.m.

The Friends of the Library are active community members who raise funds and sponsor programs to enhance library services. New members are always welcome.

June 12

Shake-it-Up! Smoothies with Maria Lew

4 p.m. — 5 p.m.

Smoothies! After all, it is summer. Come thirsty! All teens (ages 11-19) welcome.



June 13

The Grasshopper and the Ants

4 p.m. — 5 p.m.

Join puppeteers Swizzle for a fun show based on the Aesop fable.

June 15

Adventures with Dad

3:30 p.m. — 5 p.m.

Author and actress Lee Gale Gruen will speak about her new book, "Adventures with Dad: A Father and Daughter's Journey Through a Senior Acting Class." This book describes the experiences which she and her father had as they attended an acting class together for three years.

June 19

Food Frenzy Duct Tape Wallets

4 p.m. — 5 p.m.

Make a duct tape wallet for your library card! All teens (ages 11-19) welcome.

June 20

Ice Cream!

4 p.m. — 5 p.m.

Enjoy stories and songs while learning how to make your own ice cream.

June 26

Cartooning Cafe with Lonnie Millsap

4 p.m. — 5 p.m.

Learn the basics of cartooning with Lonnie Millsap, author of "I Stepped on a Duck" and "My Washcloth Sitnks!" No drawing experience needed, but be prepared to laugh. All teens (ages 11-19) welcome!

Design time

Here's a little advice from Cheviot Hills resident and interior decorator Arlyne Elliot.

Q: Is a decorator worth the investment?

A: I think he or she is. A consultation (often charged) with a professional person will help you organize your needs and wants. Remember to have your questions ready. A good professional will tell you where to spend and where to save to achieve the look.

Q: I am on a budget. Can I get a good look?

A: Absolutely. Today much is available in all price ranges. It is important to define the look and the budget. Try Home Goods, Z Gallerie and Pier I. However, do not forget to mix and match different looks, textures and color. Everything will look richer. Sometimes you will luck out at a garage sale!

Q: I love tranquility but I need something special and conversational.

A: Oh, how fun. A chandelier in the center of the kitchen. I have done this several times and people love it.



Try Lamps Plus. A funky poster in the powder room. A collection of colored glass bottles (different shapes and sizes) where light reflects

AND hang a picture or mirror low — it will be seen and appreciated when someone sits on a chair or sofa.