

# Beverlywood

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# Bonding over baseball

By BEN LEE

A confession: When I was growing up in Malibu, I hated Little League. So, when my wife suggested our boys should play baseball for the first time in the Cheviot Hills Pony League, I was nervous about it. She instinctively knew that it would be a terrific experience for them but I was more apprehensive: Would the coaches be kind and patient? Would the parents in the stands be loud and scary? Would the other kids be open to accepting new boys with zero baseball experience?

I decided to stop projecting from my own past experiences and to instead embrace the life of a Little League dad. And, make no mistake, it is a life. Anyone who has a child in baseball will warn that the time commitment will completely take over an otherwise normally busy family. Our schedule has become a near daily rush of getting these boys in their gear and up to the park to learn the fundamentals of America's pastime. But despite the dizzying array of practices, games and snack commitments ... even with the investment of new equipment and endurance of sitting on hard bleachers in an often cold, nighttime Rancho Park ... this experience has been life altering in how great it has been.

I'd say the majority of players in the league are from Cheviot Hills,



Westwood or Beverlywood, but there are a great many kids (mostly boys, but certainly a handful of girls) from every walk of life and from farther points of the city. What they share in common is so pure: the look of pride wearing their crisp, clean uniforms; the absolute ecstasy upon hearing the crack of the bat knowing they whacked the ball into the outfield or beyond; the anguish of missing a catch, knowing they almost had it; the intensity of focus sliding into home, narrowly escaping the catcher and seeing the ump announce they're safe to the cheering crowd.

Life has changed in the 30 years since I played Little League. The coaches today are actually really nice. And they aren't just teaching the rules and techniques of the game. They are showing these kids the results of hard work, discipline and what it means to

be part of a team. It's a brotherhood out in the field and these players are constantly reminded that win or lose, they are better individuals for working well together.

As Mr. Feeney, (a fifth grade teacher at Castle Heights) eloquently put it: "Baseball IS community."

We had heard about two families living nearby who also had three boys. We've lived in this neighborhood for years without ever having met them and now all our boys are playing ball together thanks to this experience. Even the ones who are too young to play are playing together while their big brothers are in the dugout and parents are chatting on the sidelines. Baseball, the ultimate ice breaker, and true definition of community... right here at Rancho Park. Every day of the week!

This is a stately manor that would fit in perfectly with the grand estates of the English countryside. Nestled amongst a forest of mature fir trees, this supremely private and recently remodeled home proudly boasts original features that makes true Cheviot Hills architecture so trusted and unique. Elegant crowned moldings, hard wood floors, a regal fireplace in the formal living room and exquisite views abound. French doors from the formal dining room open to a woody side deck: the perfect setting for enjoying cocktail hour amid the treetops before heading back inside for dinner. The kitchen was updated to include all of the state-of-the-art equipment the sophisticated at-home chefs have come to desire: stainless steel appliances, sleek yet impenetrable Kirkstone countertops, an abundance of pantry/storage spaces and a separate eat-in breakfast room reminiscent of English conservatories. Also included on this level of the house is the laundry room, family room/den and office. These two spaces, however, could easily convert into additional bedrooms as they each come equipped with generous closets. The second story of this traditional style home was part of the major architectural overhaul that was undertaken by the current residents. Roughly 1700 of the 3500 square feet were added to make the home comfortable for a growing family. The upstairs bedrooms each possess high ceilings, glorious views and extremely large closets. Two bedrooms have handsome built-in bookshelves as well as romantic window seats, ideal for curling up with a novel. The master bedroom is worthy of the King and Queen of the manor. A vast space with far reaching views, enormous walk-in closet, beautiful bathroom with limestone tiled floors, marble countertops, Jacuzzi bathtub, dual headed steam shower and double vanity. There is also an additional area off the bedroom that could be used for an office, gym, additional closet or even a nursery. Located in the award winning Overland School district, this five bedroom, four bath is the epitome of a truly exquisite and quite regal residence in a picturesque pocket of Cheviot Hills.

## Cheviot Hills – ACTIVE!



**2910 Patricia Avenue –**  
*Offered at \$2,295,000*

## West LA – COMING SOON!

Recently remodeled, three bedroom, two bath home on a quiet street in the Overland Elementary School district, this lovely, two-story, Spanish style home is full of charm. Crowned moldings, recessed lighting, hardwood floors, enormous closets, delightful views, high ceilings and a grassy, manicured backyard that will please parents and children alike, this is an idyllic family home. Other highlights to note include a tankless water heater, Nest temperature control with dual zones, office, large laundry room and formal living room featuring a Walker Zanger tiled fireplace. Shown by appointment only.



**2562 Kelton Avenue –**  
*Offered at \$1,399,000*

## Brentwood – NEW LISTING!

Spacious 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bathroom condominium on a beautiful tree lined street in Brentwood. Granite kitchen with beautiful cabinetry and breakfast bar. Hardwood floors throughout the main level and an open floor plan connecting the living and dining areas. Large master suite with his & hers walk-in closets and luxurious bathroom with dual sinks and spa tub. Quiet, controlled-access building built in 1999 with exercise room and secured garage with two covered parking spaces for this unit. Close to upscale shopping and restaurants.



**11824 Darlington Avenue, Unit #103 –**  
*Offered at \$998,000*

# My featured listings

## Cheviot Hills – NEW LISTING!



**10259 Monte Mar Drive – Offered at \$4,399,000**

What comes to mind when you picture your ideal home? Does it overlook a tranquil golf course, a welcome respite conveniently located next to all of life's necessities? Does its state-of-the-art kitchen have every culinary convenience for today's modern chef? Are there romantic balconies and terraces that extend the indoor spaces to reach outside? Are there views from every room? Does your dream home have a 4-car garage? A bathroom for every bedroom? An elevator to carry parcels from the ground floor up? A vast, resort-like backyard that flows seamlessly from outdoor living and sun bathing poolside to the golf course beyond? Is it a short stroll to a park, tennis courts, shops and restaurants? This is one home that truly earns the distinction of having it all.

Brand new construction on a quiet, well-manicured street, in one of the most coveted areas of Old Cheviot Hills, this masterpiece offers inspired transitional Mediterranean design. Upon entering the home, guests can sit fireside, sipping tea in the cozy yet elegant formal living room. Also on this floor is a private office with built-in cabinetry and en suite bath. A traditional dining room connects to the kitchen through a butler's pantry, and the exquisite kitchen opens to a spacious great room with 2-story vaulted ceiling, filled with natural light from a soaring sky. Open expansive bi-fold doors to let the outdoors in, and enjoy al fresco dining wrapped in the warmth of an outdoor fireplace.

The kitchen boasts a Sub-Zero 72" refrigerator and freezer; Wolf 48" range top with griddle, double wall oven, and warming drawer; two dishwashers, two sinks, walk-in pantry, large island with seating for 4, and ample storage. Or, should the mood strike, why not cook outside? A handsome poolside cabana includes an outdoor kitchen, bathroom, and wiring for music and television so guests can watch the game while waiting for their hamburgers to grill. Presenting the ultimate entertaining landscape, this property includes—in addition to lawn, pool, and patio spaces—a great expanse of private, grassy land that extends past the property line for your use and enjoyment. Play catch, kick a soccer ball, play fetch with Fido, or safely explore and enjoy a bit of nature.

Back inside and upstairs, four generously-sized bedrooms each have an en suite bath. A lounge with sweeping views opens to a balcony, perfect for curling up with a good book. You'll also encounter the magnificent Master retreat. The master bedroom features a lovely fireplace, vaulted ceiling and French doors leading to a private balcony overlooking the backyard and golf course, against a backdrop of city lights views. The master closet is spacious enough to be mistaken for a bedroom, and the attached master bath is bright and beautifully designed with shower large enough for two, double sink with seated vanity, relaxing tub, and separate toilet room.

On the home's ground level, find a sprawling guest suite with walk-in closet and bathroom, sizable laundry facilities, ample storage, and dedicated multi-media closet for network, TV, phone, alarm and CCTV equipment. A huge bonus room with wet bar is wired to offer the best in home theatre entertainment.

Designed and built by Diamond West Distinctive Homes and situated on a 10,200+ square foot lot, this 6 bedroom (including office), 7+ bath will arguably be the grandest home in Cheviot Hills. Asking \$4,399,000... this property is an estate to very proudly call home.

# Beverlywood happenings

## Reflections Contest winner

By BEN LEE

Castle Heights Elementary, for the first time in nearly a decade, will be sending one of its own, fourth grader Ella Carter-Klauschie, to compete on the national level for the PTA's annual Reflections Contest.

Ella's entry, One World, features her original choreography and it utilizes different styles of dance such as contemporary, samba and bhangra. Her video submission which included three of her Castle Heights friends — Dalila Newman, Cleo Fraser and Ruby Field — took first place on the state level and



Ella Carter-Klauschie

now will be competing against other young choreographers from across the country.

If you'd like to check out

Ella's winning dance, visit: [youtube.com/watch?v=Z9KqTyzkNSE](https://youtube.com/watch?v=Z9KqTyzkNSE)

## Bench with a story

By BEN LEE

Have you ever walked past this bench at Rancho Park and wondered who it is in honor of? Look no farther than my family!

Victoria Harris is my wife's grandmother who moved to Cheviot Hills from London in 1942. The Harris family chose this neighborhood because it reminded them most of their



English heritage. They settled on Glenbarr Avenue and lived in that same house for 65 years, hosting Sunday high teas every

week for family, friends and neighbors. On the occasion of Victoria (or "Mimi" as her family affectionately called her) turning 100, a bench was dedicated in her honor and her devotion to the neighborhood of Cheviot Hills.

If you are interested in dedicating a bench at Rancho Park for one of your loved ones, call (310) 837-5186 for more information.

## Who's responsible?

By MICHAEL HARRIS, ESQ.

If as a homeowner you retain a licensed contractor who employs persons to fix your roof, paint or make repairs to your home and if the employee falls or otherwise injures himself, do you have liability?

The answer is yes, if you know of a potentially dangerous condition. For example, if a beam was rotten or roof supports were compromised and you failed to warn of the condition. If you have no knowledge of the condition, you may not have a theoretical liability but if there is

catastrophic injuries, you may be sued nevertheless.

Your homeowners policy may not provide sufficient coverage for your protection so you might wish to consider an umbrella policy in case of a serious and unforeseen claim against you as a homeowner.

### Palms-Rancho Park Library

2920 Overland Ave.  
Los Angeles, Calif., 90064  
[www.lapl.org](http://www.lapl.org)

### April 5 Chess Class for Adults & Children

11 a.m.

Observe or play with chess expert Brian Glover. Adults and children, beginners and intermediate players are welcome. Gifts from the U.S. Chess Federation will be given to each attendee.

### April 7 English Conversation Class

6 p.m.

This weekly class includes instruction on reading, grammar and pronunciation.

### April 8 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.

### April 10 Great Books Discussion Group

6 p.m.

Call the library's reference desk at (310) 840-2142 to find out the name of the book to be discussed at this meeting. All are welcome to attend.

### April 24 SCORE-LA

1 p.m.

Free one-on-one counseling provided by business professionals to anyone operating a small business or thinking of starting one. By appointment only. Contact Michele Robinson at [mrobins@lapl.org](mailto:mrobins@lapl.org) to schedule an appointment. Each appointment lasts one hour.

### May 3 PSAT Practice Test

10 a.m.

The PSAT — also known as the NMSQT (National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) — is required if you apply for a National Merit Scholarship. Recommended for eighth, ninth and 10th grade students. Bring No. 2 pencils and a calculator with you to the practice test.

