



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: December 20, 2016
To: Honorable Mayor & City Council
From: Cynthia Owens, Senior Management Analyst
Subject: Request by Mayor Mirisch to Discuss Concerns with the United States Postal Service in Beverly Hills
Attachments: 1. Beverly Hills Courier Articles

INTRODUCTION

For several years the residents and businesses in Beverly Hills have experienced continual issues with the level of service and delivery of mail from the United States Postal Service. Specifically, the Beverly Hills Post Office has lost mail, been late in delivering mail, delivered mail to incorrect addresses, long lines and wait time, and other service delivery and customer service related issues.

From August 2015 to January 2016, the Beverly Hills Courier ran numerous articles on the problems the community, as well as themselves, were experiencing with the Beverly Hills Post Office in an effort to resolve these issues (Attachment 1). However, the disruption in mail delivery services continues.

Mayor Mirisch is asking the City Council to discuss these problems and consider options to compel the Post Office to improve their service.

DISCUSSION

Recently, members of City Council have received several complaints from their constituents regarding on going mail delivery issues from the Beverly Hills Post Office. Staff has discussed these items with our federal lobbyist and examined potential avenues for resolution. Options the City to may take include:

- Meeting with local Post Office staff.
- Sending letters on behalf of the City to our Congressional representatives and the Postmaster General detailing the City's concerns with the Post Office.
- Through our federal lobbyist, arrange to meet with Congressman Ted Lieu and Post Office staff in Washington, D.C.
- Requesting the community become involved by reporting mail delivery issues to the United States Post Office by calling 1-800-275-8777 or visiting <http://usps.com>.
- Asking the community to directly contact Congressman Ted W. Lieu by sending letters to his field office at:

Meeting Date: December 20, 2016

5055 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 310
Los Angeles, CA 90036

Mayor Mirisch is requesting City Council discuss the concerns expressed by residents and businesses with the Beverly Hills Post Office and identify what actions, if any, the City will take in regards to this matter.

FISCAL IMPACT

There are no known fiscal impacts at this time.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff is seeking direction from the City Council on this request.



George Chavez,
Assistant City Manager

ATTACHMENT 1
Beverly Hills Courier Articles

BEVERLY HILLS COURIER

The Newspaper of Record for the World of Beverly Hills

VOLUME: L NUMBER 34 \$135 PER YEAR - \$1.25 PER COPY • www.bhccourier.com SINCE 1965 August 21, 2015

THIS ISSUE



Zedd, a terrier mix, leads this week's Freshpet adoptable pets. 4



Work started this week on a new 3-story commercial building on Canon Drive. 4



Dick Rosenzweig is featured in this week's edition of the Beverly Hills Elder series. 5



The Courier highlights four local realtors nominated for the Will Rogers Lifetime Achievement Award. 15

- Arts & Entertainment 10
- Birthdays 22
- Letters to the Editor 34



George Christy.
Page 6
Fluent in Four Languages, Melania Knauss Trump Promotes Her Jewelry Collection On QVC, Along With Her Skin Care Products Featuring The Melania Caviar Complex C6

CLASSIFIEDS 28
• Announcements
• Real Estate
• Rentals
• Sales
• and More

Peninsula Beverly Hills Wins 'Most Innovative Guest Experience' Award

By Laura Coleman

Since opening its doors in Beverly Hills in 1991, 24 years ago this month, The Peninsula has embodied modern luxury while striving to ensure that guests have sublime experiences. Last week's leading luxury travel conference in Las Vegas further validated the hotel's way of being with The Peninsula Beverly Hills winning the "Best of the Best" Virtuoso Award in "Most Innovative Guest Experience" at this year's Virtuoso Travel Week.

Around 6,000 attendees participated in the world's largest "by

(see 'PENINSULA' page 16)



Peninsula Beverly Hills Managing Director Offer Nissenbaum with Albert Herrera, Senior VP, Global Product Partnerships of Virtuoso

City Seeks Community Input On Dog Park At Tuesday Meeting

By Victoria Talbot

The Recreation and Parks Commission will be asking the public for input on the dog park at their meeting Tuesday, August 25 at 2 p.m.

The off-leash dog park has been on the City's project list for some time. A top priority for Councilmember Lili Bosse when she was mayor last year, \$400,000 had been budgeted for the capital improvement project.

Last year, the dog park was stalled when an unacceptable lev-

el of arsenic was discovered in the soil. However, the contamination can be contained with mitigation, according to a Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration released last month.

Mitigation consists of removal and disposal of contaminated soil, followed by the placement of a permeable barrier covered in fresh topsoil. Arsenic is naturally present in soils throughout California, but former usage of the property elevated the levels detected in the

(see 'DOG PARK' page 24)

Decorative Sleep: Putting Beverly Hills To Bed Since 1961

This year, The Courier celebrates 50 years in the community. Throughout the year, we will honor the legacy of excellence in Beverly Hills' heritage businesses that have called the City their home since 1965 or earlier.

By Matt Lopez

If there's one thing Dean Murray considers himself an expert in, it's how to get a comfortable night of sleep.

After all, Murray and his family have been helping Beverly Hills residents do just that since 1961 through Decorative Sleep, located at 257 N. Robertson Blvd.

So, the all-important question for Murray would have to be what exactly does a mattress expert like Murray sleep on himself?

"Whatever my wife tells me to sleep on," Murray joked. "But really, it's not any special kind of mat-



Dean & Kelly Murray

tress. It's firm and it's old, but it works for me."

According to Murray, mattress shoppers often rush into the purchase without thinking about what they really need and sometimes do

(see 'DECORATIVE SLEEP' page 24)

Residents Agree: Beverly Hills Post Office Fails To Deliver

By Victoria Talbot

When Beverly Hills residents and businesses experience disrupted postal services they should tell *The Courier*, said Marcia Hobbs, *Courier* President and Publisher.

The *Courier's* office at 499 N. Canon Drive has its own problems; the building did not receive any mail Wednesday, except two books, for all the building's tenants. No mail was delivered for three days last week.

Calls to the post office went virtually unanswered.

When the postage was finally delivered Wednesday, at 4:45 p.m., following several calls and trips to the post office, the postman said that all delivery was disrupted in the 90210-area. His services were

enlisted when he was about to clock out for the day.

"I was on my way home," he said, explaining that he delivers to another segment of the City. "The regular carrier is not

Have a post office horror story to share? E-mail: vtalbot@bhccourier.com or call 310-278-1322 and ask for Victoria.

here," he said.

Postmaster Koula Fuller did not answer or return calls from *The Courier*.

She has served the USPS in Beverly Hills since 1982. Beverly Hills generates \$25 million in revenue annually with an

(see 'POST OFFICE' page 16)

Moody's Follows Standard & Poor's Positive Outlook On BHUSD Bond

By Laura Coleman

Beverly Hills Unified School District received even more bright news this week when Moody's assigned an Aa1 rating to the \$76 million in General Obligation (GO) bonds that the district is planning to sell starting on Tuesday. The 2015 GO bonds series is part of the BHUSD's \$334 million school-building bond that taxpayers voted for in 2008.

Moody's positive outlook comes just a week after Standard & Poor's upgraded the district's bond rating from AA to AA+.

"The positive outlook reflects our opinion that the dis-

trict's strong tax base and socioeconomic profile, coupled with a healthy overall financial position and further entrenchment into basic aid status, could warrant an upgrade," Moody's reported to investors.

The district is currently working with Citigroup to issue the bonds, which are targeted to be offered for sale from Aug. 25 to Sept. 9. The bond will be due Aug. 1, 2032.

The bonds are expected to sell with a sub-3 percent interest rate, according to Chris Erhart, VP with Keygent LLC, which is overseeing the sale of the bonds.

(see 'BHUSD BOND' page 24)



Celebrity Photo Agency/Scott Downie

FREE PHONES FOR PARTY PEOPLE—Demi Lovato, Gabrielle Union and Jamie Fox were just a few of the stars receiving gift phones during the Samsung launch of the Galaxy S6 Edge and Galaxy Note5 cellular phones at a private estate.

Others included Bryce Dallas Howard, Dwyane Wade, Tyrese Gibson, and more.

For more photos, see George Christy's column on page 6.

PENINSULA

(Continued from page 1)

appointment only" travel show for luxury travel buyers and vendors, now in its 27th year.

"It is an absolute honor to be recognized by Virtuoso at this year's Best of the Best hotel awards," said The Peninsula Managing Director Offer Nissenbaum. "We want to thank the local community and all our valued guests for their support year after year. Equally important, we need to acknowl-

edge our outstanding team who are essential to the DNA of The Peninsula Beverly Hills and without which this achievement would not be possible."

Nissenbaum told *The Courier* that his staff goes above and beyond to ensure that guests have memorable, personalized experiences. For example, the guest services team is tasked with finding out as much as they can about what guests like.

"The whole idea is really about sending the message to

each guest that we really and truly care about them," he said.

Nissenbaum, who has spent almost eight years as The Peninsula's GM, emphasized the importance of talking to guests.

"My style of management is very hands on," he said. "I really believe to run a successful hotel like The Peninsula, you really need to have your pulse on the guest experience and want they want."

Nissenbaum estimated that 70 percent of guests are repeat

cliente.

"People always say like they feel like they're coming home here," he described.

Elements like no check-in or check-out time, clothes storage, monogrammed pillow cases and having the room service menu available for guests to order from in the car from LAX are just a handful of perks that differentiates The Peninsula.

"The success of The Peninsula in Beverly Hills is all about the people who work here," he

said, describing the 400-member team as a family. "I'm just a part of that success. You're only as good as the people you surround yourself with."

Earlier this year, AAA assigned its coveted five-diamond rating to both The Peninsula Hotel as well as The Belvedere restaurant, located inside the hotel. The Belvedere is the Southland's only restaurant to receive that rating.

POST OFFICE

(Continued from page 1)

operating budget of \$10 million, according to her LinkedIn page.

Clearly, dissatisfaction with the Beverly Hills Post Office is widespread.

The Courier is starting a new feature. In our online edition, we invited our readers to submit their post office stories for publication in *The Courier*.

We believe we hit a nerve: within minutes of the eblast, we began to receive phone calls and emails.

One resident, who wished to remain anonymous, wrote:

"I have had a PO Box at the main B.H. branch on Maple Drive for years," wrote one reader. "This past year the mail has been a nightmare. I receive all business correspondence at this PO box where often the mail has been several weeks late or 'lost.' This is especially frustrating for my tenants who have had to send additional rent checks to me and make two payments on the original checks. Some of the mail that I receive late must have been lying on the post office floor because the envelopes are dirty and have show tread marks on them . . . If you have any sug-

gestions or ideas how to rectify this, please let me know."

Another resident who wished to remain unnamed, told of how the postal service left notes of delivery failure of a table, but never tried to deliver the package, claiming it was too big. The table had been delivered from the East Coast and if the recipient had not gone to the post office, it would have been returned, the resident said. That saga is currently a court case.

Another anonymous reader called in to say that on Lago Vista Drive off Coldwater Canyon, his neighborhood had not received mail from Saturday, Aug. 8 through Wednesday, Aug. 12. He also said that oversized 11x9 envelopes take one - two weeks for delivery from the San Fernando Valley.

"I'm so happy your paper has called out the disaster that is the Beverly Hills Post Office publicly for its terrible service," wrote another anonymous reader. "I live on Oakhurst Drive and from the minute I moved in there were problems:

- NEVER received any of my DSW shoe coupons ever again.
- NEVER was successful in speaking to anyone on the phone at the BHPO regarding

any issues. Nobody ever answers the phone!!! Left groceries on my stoop for their annual collection for charity and the postman never took the groceries. The BHPO on Maple Drive is Machiavellian in size and there are never enough agents working behind the desk. Also it is NEVER stocked with postal materials. The floors are littered - but lucky for me, they don't sweep 'cause I found \$20 once!

If you ask the name of one of their employees they will flatly refuse to give it to you. They won't get the manager if you ask, either." (Jennifer Lamar)

Another anonymous resident wrote:

"I don't even know where to start:

Today I received mail addressed to the same house number at a different street.

I regularly receive someone else's mail - same house number but the next street over, correct street but two numbers of the address reversed, or an inversion of the 6 and the 9 in the house address. It is interesting to learn the names of my neighbors this way-including some celebrities, but I wonder if they are as nice about re-delivering my mail correctly as I am about re-delivering their mail to the correct house?

Then there were the incidents this past spring and again this summer. I have a mail slot located at the bottom of my front door, approximately 5-6 inches above the bottom. I happened to be home when my mail was delivered and I immediately noticed that the mail was left on my front mat (outside) instead of being placed through the mail slot. I ran after the mail carrier to inquire as to 1.) why he didn't

use the slot and 2.) to ask why I had not received any mail at all the previous day. I was told that 1.) it was too much effort for him to bend down to reach the mail slot and 2.) he had not delivered mail the day before and he didn't know what had happened.

As it happened, we were expecting two large checks to be delivered on one of these two days. I asked the mail carrier to please check if there was any other mail for us as he had delivered only two items (and of course there was no mail the day before which was highly unusual). A little while later, he returned with several more pieces of mail, including the two checks!!!! If I had not asked, who knows if I ever would have received my checks?

I was also concerned that if my mail had been left on the front mat while we were out of town, someone could have assumed we were away and broken into the house and/or someone could have stolen my mail. This was not the first time mail has been left on the front mat, and I'm sure it was not the last.

Going back a few years, there was the period of time (one-to-two months as I recall) during which we either did not receive any mail at all, or our mail was delivered after 11 p.m.! A supervisor and I became very friendly (daily phone calls!) until things were finally rectified (the mail carrier was leaving at 5 p.m. for a second job and then having family members deliver the mail from private vehicles later at night). During that time, we missed several important pieces of mail including wedding invitations, etc.

Until such time as all correspondence is conducted over the Internet or by fax, we need the USPS, however I am less than impressed with their ability to deliver our mail correctly."

Wrote resident Howard Celnik:

"This issue with the Beverly Hills Post Office fails again, is nothing new to any of us here in Beverly Hills. I have been a resident of Beverly Hills for only 10 years now, though in those 10 years, there have been numerous times the Beverly Hills Post Office fails to deliver mail to my humble one bedroom apartment.

Several months ago, I decided that I was going to complain about it, though when I looked up the telephone number to call with my complaint, the phone number listed was disconnected.

If I could not perform my job at work, I would get fired. Apparently, that's not a concern with our Beverly Hills Post Office employees who will eventually get to retire with full benefits, including comprehensive health insurance. I will not, even though I work in the medical field for over 23 years serving residents in a skilled nursing facility.

To think, before moving to Beverly Hills, I had a single-family home in Reseda for a number of years. My mail was always delivered, and I gave a gift check every year for the holidays to my post office carrier. I have not felt compelled to do this since moving here. Shame on you Beverly Hills Post Office employees!"

Resident Annemarie Herrera wrote: "The post office is a mess! My brothers retired from the postal service and they really have a lot of criticism on how they deteriorated. They think the service should be removed from their name."

In 1933 Honorary Mayor of Beverly Hills Will Rogers wrote to the secretary of the United States Treasury, "...it seems you owe us \$250,000.00 to build a post office and they can't get the dough out of you." The United States paid \$300,000 for the building on Crescent Drive designed by architect Ralph Flewelling in 1936.

Then, in 1984, Fuller took the lead to obtain a national landmark designation to preserve the building and its murals and to begin restoration. But the building was sold to the City in 1999 and postal service moved to the Maple location.

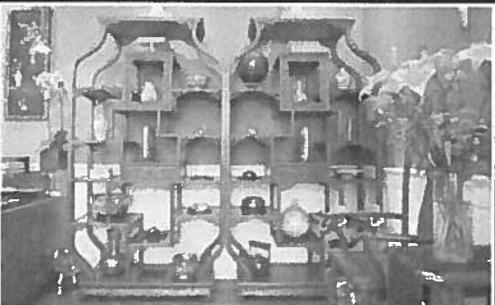
With the decline of snail mail in the Internet age, that distribution office is being relegated to a retail location; the building has been sold and is being renovated for office space with a 7,500 square-foot retail post office.

If you have stories about the Beverly Hills post office and mail delivery send an email to vtalbot@bhccourier.com or call Victoria Talbot at *The Courier*, 310-278-1322.



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Friday, December 9, 2016 2:20:42 pm

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Beverly Hills News – Residents Agree: Beverly Hills Post Office Fails To Deliver: UPDATED

Updated: Friday, August 21, 2015 – 5:24 PM

As of Friday, August 21 at 5:25 p.m., *The Courier* has received over 27 calls and dozens of emails.

It seems that Beverly Hills has one of the worst postal delivery records anywhere without consideration for courtesy and customer service, according to our readers.

Among the complaints heard again and again:

- Late delivery or none at all
- No one answers the phone at the Post Office
- Customer service window opened irregularly and often not at all
- Tracking notifies customers that a package has been delivered but it has not been delivered. Several readers explained that they had CCTV, were expecting a package, and waited, watching for a delivery and there was no delivery.
- Packages that are not delivered can only be recovered if the customer approaches the driver and asks him/her to check the truck again; they are not being held at the post office.
- Mail is thrown across the lawn, instead of being placed in a mail slot
- Mail for an entire block or building or series of buildings is left in a bin in a public place
- Mail carriers leave mail on the doorstep so they don't have to bend down to put it into door slots
- Delivery occurs in the middle of the night, the postal carrier donning a miner's light
- Delivery of large manila envelopes and small packages can take between 2 weeks and 3 months
- Pick up at the post office is confrontational when packages are tracked as "delivered"
- Packages are opened, smashed, stomped on
- When confronted at the post office on the rare occasions when there is a live human being, many have been told that they are lucky to get any mail at all
- Without exception, every postal customer that called or wrote expressed shock that the situation had deteriorated to such a level
- Every postal customer expressed a feeling of frustration and helplessness after numerous attempts at customer service failed
- Commerce and business have been severely impacted; Checks are late, rents are late, business is held up, medications do not arrive . . . the City is held hostage by the postal service and there is no alternative.
- Many customers believe that they are being targeted by the USPS for a complaint; many feel that there will be retribution if they are named. Many expressed a sense that they were the "only ones" who were under this strain. Many were anxious to let out pent up frustrations that have boiled for weeks, months, years.

We will continue to follow this story and to be proactive in seeking a solution.

Posted Thursday, August 20 – 6:25 PM

By Victoria Talbot

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MOST VIEWED STORIES

Two Men Arrested In Beverly Hills Carjacking



George Christy Talks About Kirk Douglas, The Ragman's Son, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and More!



Trial On Mohamed Hadid's 901 Strada Vecchia Looms Closer



Frances Allen's Desert Roundup—Obamas Choose Rancho Mirage As Post-White House Home

Beverly Hills News – Vahagn Setian Memorial 5K Run/Walk is Sunday

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS (112516)

Environment of Racial, Sexual Harassment at FedEx Charges Employee



School Leaders – Beverly Hills Unified School District leaders gathered Tuesday for the annual evening "Leadership & Administrators Dinner."



Dishing It Up With Sharon Insul—Taking The Stairs And Decorating Them



Playboy Playmate Dani Mathers Pleads Not Guilty To Alleged Body Shaming



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If you have stories about the Beverly Hills post office and mail delivery please send an email to vtalbot@bhcourier.com or call Victoria Talbot at The Courier. (310) 278-1322.

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NOVEMBER 29, 2016 04:42 PM

1 COMMENT

Added: August 26, 2015 08:25 PM

I am a little late to the game here, but I just saw this article and had to respond. I also have been having major issues with the USPS in BH. In some ways, I am heartened to hear that I am not alone.



Since the problems are so many, I had to bullet point them. But you should be able to get the gist. - extremely late mail deliveries; not unusual to receive @ 10p - missed mail deliveries (fortunately we're diligent, but for others this easily could result in late fees/missed checks etc) - wrong address - both at the "street" level as well as my immediate neighbors (clearly they do not understand the "1/2" address is different than the "whole number" address) - parcels noted as delivered but not rcvd (I think it was ebay, but it could have been amazon/etsy etc). So even though I didn't get my package, since it was marked delivered, I was not able to get my money back from the seller or the USPS. - Related, packages are left on front stoop in full street view without even the benefit of a knock. Despite exhaustive calls to have them stop this practice, it still continues - Mail as well is left on the front stoop, in bulk - I have called the national USPS number on two separate instances (over two years) to complain - despite being told that a regional district supervisor would follow up within a couple of days, no one has ever called back - Out-going mail is not picked up - no one answers the phone at local facilities - we have a different person each day (6+ in last few months); not explicitly a problem, but it does generally mean that inexperienced carriers are not particularly efficient - As much as these issues are problematic, I am also still angered over the city's role in basically transferring the old Crescent Drive building from a beautiful public resource to whatever it is now - with a handful of random performances for which residents now have to purchase tickets. Thanks for nothing. - Maple Dr location no longer has easily accessible parking available since the underground gate is closed so often

Comments are closed.



Cuisine



Beverly Hills Farmers' Market celebrated the fourth annual Picklefest Sunday where contestants were vying for the title of "Best Pickle in Beverly Hills."

Education / Enrichment



The Willows Community School was commended by the L.A. County Board of Supervisors for hosting the Foster Care Counts "Foster Mother's Day" and its commitment to foster youth and families.

Local Happenings



The Los Angeles Real Estate Investors Club will hold their monthly meeting Tuesday, 6:30-9 p.m. at the Doubletree Hilton, 6161 W. Centinela Ave. in Culver City.

Local



Nic's Beverly Hills, the trendy Canon Drive martini bar, will close its doors on Dec. 31 after 19 years, owner Larry Nicola confirmed. Nicola said there was nothing specifically driving Nic's to shutter in terms of problems with rent or a lease. He said he felt it was just simply time to go.

Sports



The No. 9 ranked UCLA women's basketball team ran its Pauley Pavilion winning streak to 17 games with a 72-49 rout of Hawaii on Sunday.

Astrology

- HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS (120916)
- HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS (120216)
- HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS (112516)

Columnists

- Nutrition Notes With Ilana Muhlstein -5 Holiday Foods To Avoid, And Alternatives
- Jerry Cutler On Film—Marvelous Natalie Portman Brings Back Memories Of Post-Camelot Days In 'Jackie'
- Dishing It Up With Sharon Insul—Taking The Stairs And Decorating Them

Special Sections

- Men's Health—Technology Is Changing How Men Get Screened, Treated For Prostate Cancer
- Active Retirement—Belmont Village Offers Tips For Choosing a Senior Living Community
- Health And Beauty—BH Plastic Surgeon Dr. Bruce Torkian Sees Trend Toward Ethnic Rhinoplasty

US News

- Reputable Pulmonologist and Sleep Medicine Specialist Charlene E. McEvoy, MD, MPH, will be Noted in The Leading Physicians of the World
- Exceptional Registered Nurse Danielle M. Fill, RN, BSN, will be Spotlighted in the Worldwide Leaders in Healthcare
- Esteemed Gastroenterologist, Hepatologist, and Liver Transplant Specialist Reena J. Salgia, MD, will be Featured in The Leading Physicians of the World

Charity

- This Holiday Season, Give Back to the Shelter Pets!
- Beverly Hills News – Vahagn Setian Memorial 5K Run/Walk is Sunday
- Beverly Hills to Host Three Panels from AIDS Memorial Quilt

BEVERLY HILLS COURIER

The Newspaper of Record for the World of Beverly Hills

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THIS ISSUE



Dawson leads this week's Freshpet Adoptable Pets of the Week. 4



Chris and Anita Rovtar took The Courier with them to Cote d'Azur last month. 5



Salvatore Ferragamo celebrated 100 years in Hollywood Wednesday night on Rodeo Drive. 8



Olivia Krevo talks fashion, food and fun for local teenagers. 9



Mayor Julian Gold held the annual 'State Of The City' address Wednesday. 19

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George Christy, Page 6

Sherry Lansing and Billy Friedkin Celebrated The Publication Of Brian Kellow's Biography Of Sue Mengers With A Festive Drinks Party At Their Luxurious Residence In Bel-Air

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- Announcements
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- and More



MAIL WASTELAND — This was the scene at the bulk mail area of the Maple Post Office Thursday morning. The Courier found dozens of bins filled with mail to be thrown in the trash. Courier photo by Victoria Talbot

Alert! Your Missing Mail May Be Destroyed At Maple Post Office

Postal Workers Union President Sonia Canchola says Beverly Hills Post Office is "the worst."

By Victoria Talbot

Union Local president Sonia Canchola contacted *The Courier* to respond to Postmaster Koula Fuller. In her letter last week, Fuller had written, "I can assure you that all mail coming into the Beverly Hills Post Office from the processing plant that services us is delivered each and every day. No mail is left behind, stored or carried over to another day."

At Canchola's suggestion, *The Courier* visited the local post office at 325 N. Maple Drive where we discovered numerous bins filled with mail slated to be thrown into the trash. According to Canchola,

"If you believe you are missing mail, head to the Maple Post Office at 325 N. Maple Drive immediately and ask to be taken to the back where bins are filled with undelivered mail."

maintenance workers refused to throw it out, knowing that this is not the proper way to dispose of undelivered mail.

Labeled as bulk mail, the bins also held first class parcels and letters. Some were open. Some dated to early June. Letters included bank statements and DMV materials.

The postal service is not (see POST OFFICE page 11)

Beverly Hills Elder: Renee Firestone – Holocaust Survivor, Educator, Designer

Part 52 in a series on Beverly Hills residents who have grown with the Centennial City

By Laura Coleman

At 91 years old, Renee Firestone said she asks herself everyday, just why she is still alive. Her white hair is a radiant crown, sheltering brilliant topaz eyes that sparkle with kindness and compassion, and she's committed to doing what she can to make the world a better place.

"It's all miracles," she says of her life that took her from her childhood home in Czechoslovakia, to the Nazi death camp Auschwitz in Poland and ultimately to Beverly Hills. Along the way, she learned to survive, accept the miraculous amidst tragedy and became a fashion designer, whose pieces are now part of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art's permanent collection. And for the



Renee Firestone

past 38 years, she has devoted her life to educating others on the Holocaust.

"We need people to speak up and help those who are in trouble," she says. "Be kind to others and help wherever we can."

After World War II ended,

(see RENEE FIRESTONE page 18)



Beverly Hills Dog Park Moves One Step Closer

GOING TO THE DOGS — Local dog owners brought their canine companions to Tuesday's site visit. Courier photo by Victoria Talbot

By Victoria Talbot

The Beverly Hills Dog Park began to take shape Tuesday in a marathon session of the Recreation and Parks Commission (RPC) that began at the proposed site and ended with a 4-hour session to hash out details that will be presented to the City Council soon.

Following direction from the City Council, the RPC met at City Hall to be shuttled to the site. However, the shuttle did not materialize. Undeterred, the group either walked or drove to the site at the corner of Alden Drive and Foothill Road shortly after 9 a.m.,

meeting about 50 enthusiastic dog-lovers and dogs, and some congregants of the local synagogues, who were not so enthusiastic about the proposed location.

Assistant Director of Community Services Nancy Hunt Coffey pointed out the site's perimeter and sketched out development proposals. Then the group reconvened at City Hall to start the meeting.

Several issues were discussed about the details of the proposed park, against the backdrop of a small, but vocal group of synagogues and

(see 'DOG PARK' page 17)

BHUSD 'Fiscally Healthy' As New School Year Begins

By Matt Lopez

Christmas came a little early for the Beverly Hills Unified School District on Tuesday when it learned it's doing better than it originally thought financially.

On Tuesday, BHUSD's Chief Administrative Officer LaTanya Kirk-Carter presented the Board of Education with unaudited actuals (which include all revenue accrued, expenditures paid/accrued, goods received and services rendered through June 30, 2015), that will be submitted to the L.A. County Office of Education for review.

The report paints a picture of a financially healthy district — the district's General Fund balance ended at \$3.7 million, an increase of \$376,007 from the estimated actuals approved by the school board in June.

"That's \$868,000 better than we estimated," Kirk-Carter said. "We're going into the fiscal year with a very healthy beginning balance."

The district currently shows \$2.7 million in deficit spending, but Kirk-Carter said that will change when a new budget is submitted Oct. 31.

(see 'BHUSD FINANCES' page 19)



Celebrity Photo Agency/Scott Downie

PAMELA WITH HER BOYS — Dylan Jagger Lee, Pamela Anderson, Brandon Thomas Lee during the The Hidden Heroes Gala presented by Mercy for Animals at Unici Casa.

For more photos, see George Christy's column on page 6.

POST OFFICE

(Continued from page 1)

permitted to toss out mail it does not deliver. The letter to be disposed of must have an endorsement printed clearly on the label. These letters only showed postmarks.

Canchola acknowledged everything we have heard about postal delivery. Service is poor throughout the area, but, she said, "Beverly Hills is the worst."

In a letter directed to the office of 33rd District Congressman Ted Lieu and copied to *The Courier*, Canchola wrote:

"The staffing has been really bad for some time. On May 2015 management decided to re-align the clerk jobs throughout the Los Angeles District . . . the intent was to fully staff the retail units and backfill with Postal Support Employees (PSEs) . . . management never gave Beverly Hills the PSE's promised. Beverly Hills currently has 3 vacant full time employee vacancies they have not filled . . . management is not allowing employees to fill those positions because it will leave the distribution section with

little to no employees to distribute the mail. Just for example, two months ago in distribution there were 10 clerks working in distribution between the Maple and San Vicente buildings. Since this re-alignment two major key players in Maple have been moved to retail leaving only 1 employee to do the work of 3. This causes the delay in the processing of mail for the customers in the PO Box, Caller Service and Firm section delaying anywhere from 1 to 2 days (some mail even more). I have other pictures showing the "flats" legal size envelopes and or magazines that are considered first and second class mail . . . This is the letter mail left from Friday September 4 to Saturday September 5."

Canchola enclosed dozens of photos showing mail left for another day's delivery.

"First-class letters, parcels and certified mail were left in bins. Beverly Hills is the worst. Their excuse is that its been neglected for many years. There is a lack of accountability in the postal service. Everyone hides the truth."

Koula Fuller Denies Mail Was Being Thrown Out; Canchola Responds And Calls For Independent Mail Review

Late Thursday, after *The Courier* sent out an e-blast regarding its findings at the Maple Post Office, Beverly Hills Postmaster Koula Fuller e-mailed to deny that the bins full of mail that Canchola alerted *The Courier* to, and that reporter Victoria Talbot saw with her own eyes, were being tossed in the trash. After learning of Fuller's denial, Canchola contacted *The Courier* stating she stood by her story that the mail was being sent to waste.

Dear Ms. Talbot,

You have made a wrong assumption. The containers of mail you saw on the back dock of the Beverly Hills Post Office were not mail being delayed for delivery. The mail is undeliverable-as-addressed bulk business mail from our PO Box section, waiting to be picked up for recycling. Also on the back dock are containers of trash from our PO Box and Retail Lobbies, which includes mail customers may have disposed of in lobby trash cans. There is no First Class Mail being delayed.

We have received calls from our customers that you have sent them an email claiming the Post Office is destroying their mail and urging them to go to the Post Office to protest. Please send a retraction to your email list and

explain your mistake.

The rate of postage that the majority of bulk business mailers pays does not include forwarding or return service, if the piece is undeliverable. The undeliverable bulk business mail is verified two times by employees, as being such, before it leaves our building.

I will continue to strive to improve service for residents of Beverly Hills.

Regarding my letter dated August 27, 2015, tracking reflects the item was delivered on August 27, 2015 and was addressed to Marcia Hobbs, Publisher/President of the Beverly Hills Courier. I'll be happy to send you your own copy.

Sincerely,
Koula Fuller
Postmaster

From Sonia Canchola ...

The comment that Mrs. Fuller stated "no mail left behind" is an absolute farce. If they want to challenge the photos, I suggest an independent party interview all mail processing clerks from the carrier Annex at San Vicente or the retail clerks at the Maple office including the two recent clerks moved out of Maple because they spoke out against the bad services to customers

and now placed them in Crescent and Beverly Stations. As for the waste mail, I stand by my story! Management has not properly sifted through all those gurneys. If they had, there would be endorsement notes on the containers! I encourage an independent party interview all the craft employees.

— Sonia Canchola

More Letters From Courier Readers

It's good to know I'm not alone in my frustration with the Beverly Hills Post Office. While I like our mailman, I don't like our mail service.

We frequently receive mail that is not ours. We may receive mail intended for a neighbor or we may receive mail for a complete stranger.

It's easy to understand that our city has many streets that contain "Beverly" and how that can be confusing. But I expect the post office to deliver mail for Beverly Grove to Beverly Grove and Beverly Green to Beverly Green and Beverly Drive to Beverly Drive. Obviously my expectations are too high.

What's more, the same piece of mail may be returned to me multiple times! I can't rid myself of one letter in particular which is supposed to go to Beverly Drive - it now has multiple cancellations on the envelope. I feel for the pizza guys who try to deliver my pizza to Beverly Glen - I feel something different when I think about our postal services.

To add to another writer's comment, I too have never succeeded in reaching our Postmaster. When I escalated to the Federal level they referred me back to the local level. No one answers the phone. I think it's because no one is "there". — Anonymous

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Margaret Kilgallen (American, 1967-2001) *Untitled (Woman)*, Acrylic on found paper Post-War & Contemporary Art, Auction Nov 10

DOYLE.COM

Beverly Hills Post Office Woes Continue – Postal Workers Union Leader Sonia Canchola Expresses ‘Deep Concern’ In Management Policy

By Victoria Talbot

The Courier continues to receive emails and phone calls from locals distraught over the poor delivery service in Beverly Hills and surrounding areas. Since we began our campaign last month, we have been in conversation with the office of Ted Lieu, congressman for the 33rd District, including Beverly Hills and the Westside of Los Angeles.

We have also been in conversation with the Amer-

ican Postal Workers Union Local President Sonia Canchola.

She has expressed deep concern over a shift in management policy away from servicing individual customers in favor of focusing on corporate customers with an eye towards the bottom line, earning money.

The USPS does not directly receive taxpayer dollars since the 1980s. Then, in 2006, Congress passed the Postal Accountability and

Enhancement Act, mandating that \$5.5 billion per year is banked to fully refund employee retirement and health benefits, exceeding any other government or private organization.

Unfortunately, with the advent of the Internet, revenue began to drop sharply. The USPS lost \$5.5 billion in FY 2014, though revenue exceeded \$67 billion.

Recently, the USPS signed on to deliver for Amazon.com, adding Sunday del-

iveries and taking on thousands of hourly wage earners for part-time delivery.

Though the USPS fails to deliver our mail, they will go to any lengths to satisfy the corporate customer, pointed out Canchola.

Unfortunately, the USPS is an independent agency of the United States federal government, constitutionally mandated to provide postal service explicitly authorized by the United States Constitution. We are stuck with

each other.

“The Beverly Hills delivery system is either punitive or dysfunctional,” said The Courier’s President/Publisher Marcia Hobbs this week, after the USPS failed again to deliver mail to our offices.

Please continue to inform us with your stories at vtalbot@bhccourier.com or 310-278-1322.

More Letters About The Post Office From Beverly Hills Courier Readers...

My first job after being elected to the City Council of Beverly Hills, was to try and get arrested at the post office. I was accused of trespass after going around to the back to see why the window for questions was locked prior to 5 p.m. and why I was locked out of my P.O. box. The police were called at 4:52 p.m. and arrived before 5 p.m., in March 2007. The receipt showing payment for the P.O. box was made available to me, the following day. Officer Foxen refused to arrest me knowing when the call to the

police was made and because of all the witnesses in the post office that saw the incident. Too much mail was never delivered from that post office. I used to think it was personal, now I realize it was under their best management and practices for getting rid of the mail.

— Nancy Krasne, Councilmember, City of Beverly Hills

Our house in southwest B.H. requires the mail carrier to walk a wheeled cart up/down hill and from sidewalk to front

doors. Local postmaster assigned our route to a carrier with a known, chronic hip problem a few years back. Consequently, she rarely, if ever, actually delivered the mail due to debilitating pain. In fact, the mail was regularly not delivered at all. Needless to say, this was rather distressing. The problem was fixed -- the mail carrier in pain was replaced by a mail carrier happy to serve in a position he absolutely loved -- only after I contacted Rep. Henry Waxman’s office. To his credit, his office took steps to rectify the matter quickly and effectively. No surprise he served so long in a position he absolutely loved.

— Anonymous

I’ve been reading your articles on the Beverly Hills post offices and would like to say that the post office on South Beverly Drive is also a most unpleasant experience to do mailing at. I try very hard to not go there or the post office on Maple Drive. I did try the Beverly Drive post office last week

though, hoping for change. I brought in a pre filled out form for international mailing: the clerk had no one at her counter, waited a couple minutes to ask me to her counter, spoke so fast I never heard each word. I tried to just smile & “obey” her commands, she never mentioned why she didn’t take my form, I finally asked, and got a hurried fast answer, waving me on, as I noticed she still had no one in line.

To sum it up, the clerks are rude, angry at any question asked, and treat everyone using no manners. I hope that the Postal Workers Union President Sonia Canchola, who is working on this whole matter at Beverly Hills Post Offices, is aware of the situations at Beverly Drive also.

Thank you very much.

— Miserable BH Resident (anonymous)

Why am I not surprised at mail ending up in the trash?

Since you began your expose, I have had many more instances of misdirected and missing mail. Currently, I am

looking for a large check that was sent five days ago from B.H. to me (in B.H.). The sender will have the expense of stopping payment on the check and mailing another check - and wondering if the second one will actually be delivered.

Most days I still receive far less mail than ever before and always at least one letter meant for a neighbor.

I did have one positive experience when I mailed a priority package at the Crescent Post Office.

The person who helped me had a hastily handmade name tag, she was pleasant, and my package was delivered in 3 days as promised. I was surprised to see that my receipt included the website address to complete a survey on customer satisfaction. Too bad we can’t have a survey for mail delivery!

Perhaps The Courier could put up a survey online. Survey Monkey is free and very easy to use. You could post the link on your website and in the Friday paper.

— Anonymous

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VOLUME: L

NUMBER 39

\$135 PER YEAR - \$1.25 PER COPY

www.bhcourier.com

SINCE 1965

September 25, 2015

THIS ISSUE



Lady, a terrier poodle, is one of this week's Freshpet Adoptable Pets 4



The Courier's Evelyn Portugal hit France with her copy of The Courier! 4



Beverly Hills held its annual Senior Health Fair this week. 5



Hilton & Hyland sold 706 N. Hillcrest this week for a record \$23 million. 10



The Wallis selected Paul Crewes as its first Artistic Director. 17

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George Christy.

Page 6

"I Write About Real People In Disguise," Claimed Jackie Collins. "If Anything, My Characters Are Toned Down - The Truth Is Much More Bizarre."

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- and More

Petersen Foundation Donates \$2.5 Million Gift To Children's Hospital Los Angeles

By Matt Lopez

The future of Children's Hospital Los Angeles' (CHLA) vision center is looking bright, thanks to a generous donation from the foundation of two former long-time Beverly Hills residents.

The Margie and Robert E. Petersen Foundation on Thursday announced a \$2.5 million unrestricted gift to support CHLA's Vision Center in its efforts to advance medical teaching techniques, increase infrastructure for groundbreaking research and use cutting edge video technology to reach more patients in less time.

"Mr. and Mrs. Petersen believed strongly that every child



Dr. Thomas Lee

deserves the opportunity to reach his or her full potential," says GiGi Carleton, president of the Margie and Robert E. Petersen Foundation. "This gift from the Petersen Foundation supports the" (see CHLA GIFT page 12)

Hawthorne Closes After Drone Photos Reveal Tower Damage

By Laura Coleman

Just one week after El Rodeo school was abruptly closed for three days in order to address its seismically deficient tower, on Wednesday evening Superintendent Steve Kessler directed staff to immediately close Hawthorne school to address a similar problem. The K-8 school is expected to reopen on Monday once its tower is encased in protective scaffolding.

"The decision was made with the safety of our students and staff

foremost in our mind," Kessler emphasized.

On Wednesday afternoon, interim Facilities Director Tim Buresh alerted the superintendent to the fact that new photographs taken of the cupola at Hawthorne via drone technology indicated additional cracking throughout the school's tower and cupola.

"More alarming, there is evidence that the entire cupola structure has broken loose right above the collar piece that sits on the" (see HAWTHORNE CLOSURE page 13)

Beverly Hills Elder: Dorothy Victor - A Harpist For All Seasons

Part 54 in a series on Beverly Hills residents who have grown with the Centennial City

By Laura Coleman

At 85 years old, Dorothy Victor's fingers work the strings of her harp with the pluck of a teenager. The sounds that pour forth are soulful and magical, transporting her audience beyond the physical realm.

"Music is the quickest way to human emotions," Dorothy avers. "The harp's a beautiful thing and very satisfying to play."

For Dorothy, harps are more than instruments. She speaks of them as though they are people, lovers in a sense. She gives them names like Prince Charming, whom she met 20 years ago in Chicago; Jean-Pierre, who was in Desi Arnaz's orchestra before she



Dorothy Victor

acquired him and on whom Dorothy later instructed Barbra Streisand how to pretend-strum; and Little One, Dorothy's very first harp.

(see DOROTHY VICTOR page 22)

Beverly Hills Dog Park Meeting Rescheduled To Oct. 13

By Victoria Talbot

A Recreation and Parks special meeting originally scheduled for Sept. 29 has been rescheduled for Oct. 13 at 2 p.m. in City Hall, out of consideration for the Jewish festival of Sukkot.

The special meeting was scheduled to continue items from the August 25 meeting on the proposed dog park at the corner of Alden Drive and Foothill Road.

The Sept. 29 date was chosen when commissioners mistakenly identified it as a date during Sukkot when normal ac-

tivity could resume.

"We all try to be as sensitive as possible to the needs of all the shareholders of this City, but at times there may be misunderstandings, conflicts or differences of opinion. This does not mean we intentionally trying to be disrespectful or attempting to offend anyone... it just means we are human with the same flaws," said Recreation and Parks Vice Chair Frances Bilak.

The Courier obtained letters from the City Thursday through a California Public (see DOG PARK page 9)

Post Office Acknowledge's Crisis In Meeting At Congressman Lieu's Office

By Victoria Talbot

"Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds." - Inscription on the James Farley Post Office, New York City

Courier Publisher and President Marcia Hobbs was invited to a meeting at the district office of 33rd District Rep. Ted Lieu to meet with Richard Maher, regional corporate communications for the US Postal Service and Lieu's District Director Lisa Pinto and Field Representative Janet Turner Tuesday.

The post office has taken note of our series of articles and, said Maher, and he will be overseeing our communication with the post office "to allow Postmaster Koula Fuller to focus on fixing the problems."

Maher denied that mail was destroyed at the Maple Post Office, and said that two postal inspectors reviewed the evidence.

But he denied little else, including the rude or non-existent retail service, failed delivery, late deliveries, haphazard deliveries, mail theft from apartment and condo lobbies, rude and inconsistent mail carriers, sloppy delivery and no delivery.

Of concern is the rash of apartment and condominium building mail thefts under watchful cameras. Thieves enter with large garbage bags and take the mail, using postal keys to open the front door and remove the front panel on the boxes. Each key opens both at an undetermined number of buildings, said Maher. But there are new, tamper-resistant locks and, "the L.A. District is (see POST OFFICE page 18)

THE OPERA BALL'S FIRST LADY

- Mary Hayley, who masterminds the annual Opera Ball, with mate Selim Zilka during the opening night of the 30th season, which raised \$2.2 million for the L.A. Opera. Selim underwrote the dinner in honor of Mary. Woody Allen directed Puccini's Gianni Secchi, which was paired with Pagliacci starring Placido Domingo.



Steve Cochr photography



For more photos, see George Christy's column on page 6.

POST OFFICE

(Continued from page 1)

going to begin replacing locks," he said. "Its not something we can do overnight. Its starting in selected areas."

"We're constantly hiring. Forty percent don't last a month," said Maher. "There's probably people who jobs to steal."

The inspector general does check vehicle history and background checks on employees, he said.

Do not leave mail uncollected, he cautions.

Maher also said that there is going to be renewed effort to step up delivery times to a mid-day window, even "as early as 9-10 a.m. If you haven't received your mail by 6 p.m. and you are a resident of our area, you should call," he said, which brought up another sore spot.

Maher said that Fuller has committed to returning every call herself. "The voicemail has now been installed and she has been returning calls," Maher told *The Courier*. "We have 'secret shoppers'," said Hobbs, referring to many we have told to call and report back to us if their calls were returned.

And for the Maple Post Office, "We will be moving with-

in the building to a new section over the course of a weekend," when the building is renovated by the new owners. There will be fewer P.O. boxes, because there was a high vacancy rate.

Operations were moved to San Vicente, which he acknowledges is very small.

The mail comes sorted by machine to the carrier annex. "We're trying to improve mail flow from the plants to the offices. We are constantly hiring; our attrition rate is high."

"We have issues with our retirement programs bottom line. It has to be funded 75 years in advance, \$5 billion annually. That doesn't take into account if we have a good or a bad year. In 2008 we tanked, but we still had to pay \$5 billion. We borrowed up to our credit limit."

Maher said the post office needs a new fleet, more parcel processing equipment, new scanners and other equipment.

Changes include phone calls to 310-247-3404 will be returned by Koula Fuller. She will investigate undelivered mail and carrier issues in the City. But he admits that they are short-staffed, especially at the Maple office. "Lack of courtesy is intolerable," he said. "Its something we're aware of." But management cannot select

who works retail. "Employees have their choice of job by seniority."

"We're trying to set a bar. We hope it's going to make a difference."

Fuller has returned to Beverly Hills following an 8-year absence while she was on special assignment. She was overseeing placement for injured postal employees while her position was held open.

During that time, the 22,107 street addresses and 3,995 post office box customers did not have a postmaster or designated, full-time manager.

"While Ms. Fuller was assigned to other duties, the Los Angeles District assigned other managers to step in and manage the operations," said Maher.

Perhaps this contributed to the abysmal state of the Beverly Hills Post Office today.

However, over the course of our investigation, it has become clear that the problems with the post office are much more widespread than originally thought. We have been contacted by Sup. Mike Antonovich's office, Henry Scott, publisher of *WestHill*, homeowners associations from Brentwood, Westwood, Santa Monica, Little Holmby, and Bel Air, and by postal customers

across the Westside.

The USPS is so important it is authorized in Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the United States Constitution and created by an act of Congress.

After a since-forgotten postal workers strike, Congress enacted the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970, which eliminated the Postmaster General as a cabinet position and states that the basic function is "to provide prompt, reliable, and efficient services to patrons ... and render postal services to all communities" with a "maximum degree of effective and regular postal service... The Postal Service shall give the highest consideration to the requirement for the most expeditious collection, transportation, and delivery of important letter mail."

But the postal service seems more interested in delivering for corporate interests like Amazon Fresh on Sunday - than delivering the mail.

Problems, it seems, begin at the top.

The Postal Service Board of Governors (BOG) is comprised of nine presidential appointees who select the postmaster general and CEO. The 10 then select the deputy postmaster general (COO) and the 11 who make up the board. There are

BEVERLY HILLS COURIER

currently only five, including Postmaster General Megan Brennan, selected in February 2015.

But Brennan was selected without a quorum on the BOG.

Since December 2014, the United States Government has failed to act on the five nominations despite the Jan. 14 retirement of PG Patrick Donahoe, according to an email from Maher.

"We urge the president to promptly provide board nominations for the 114th senate to consider and for the Senate to move expeditiously in considering those nominees," said a statement issued by the BOG. The Board of Governors, lacking a quorum to select the next postmaster general, adopted a resolution in November 2014 establishing a Temporary Emergency Committee composed of the remaining members of the Board ... necessary for the continuity of operations."

Please continue to send your emails to vtalbot@bh-courier.com. Let us know how that phone number worked for you. We will continue to go where this story leads us. *The Courier* received a large volume of mail Tuesday.

More Letters About The Beverly Hills Post Office From Our Readers!

There is one bright shining star in the Postal Service!! Greg, who is the regular carrier for [address redacted] Spalding (and the 100 and 200 blocks of Spalding), is close to perfect: the mail is delivered at about the same time every day; there's NEVER mail for someone else in my box; I receive everything that I should.

The nightmares do come when Greg takes time off: no mail some days; only magazines some days; only a piece or two of mail for one or more days... and sometimes it's not for me! I was a pen pal for Henry Waxman when Greg had time off!!! There was a time that we had no mail delivery! And then a couple of times the sub "forgot" to take the outgoing mail! Then there was the night that I witnessed the substitute carrier, at about 8 p.m., yell out to our desk person that he didn't have time to sort all of the mail and stormed out, leaving a tub of mail on the counter.

If anyone wants absolutely

reliable mail delivery about 95 plus percent of the time find housing on Greg's route. But he can't do anything about getting outgoing mail delivered to Century City in less than 4 or 5 days.

— Anonymous

•••

In today's mail:

One letter addressed to our neighbor at [address redacted] Walden. I'll bring it over to him.

One (presumed junk mail, from 3750 Priority Way South Drive Suite 200, Indianapolis IN) to Victor Cardenas or Current Resident, [address redacted] North Beverly Drive 90210

One (from same sender) to John Jesek Or Current Resident, [address redacted] Highland Gorge Dr. 90210

One from Los Angeles Mission to Mr. and Mrs. Jay Winthrop [address redacted] N. Elm Dr 90210.

It looks like the BHPO has taken to random delivery.

I took pictures with my iPhone if you want me to send

them.

Your articles on the Beverly Hills Post Office remind me of my experiences with the same service. Some of my neighbors have occasionally brought me my mail delivered to them by mistake. I have done the same for them and for people on La Peer, Swall Drive and even some streets further west. I have tried to complain about this and the delivery times which are sometimes as late as 9 p.m.

Another issue I have had was how the mail was delivered. Sometimes it is placed in the mail slot so that it all goes through and lands on a counter.

Many times some mail goes through properly and some mail is stuck in the entry to the slot. Many times the mail has been folded up and placed in the slot so that it is stuck in the slot. Many times the mail has been folded up and just placed in the opening without any attempt to have the mail go all the way through! I have not had such experiences when I resided in Los Angeles or other cities. Why Beverly Hills?

For 25 years at this address I had received mail each and every day until about 2 months ago

when, not only was mail not delivered but mail was not picked up out of the mailbox - with the red flag raised.

I am aware of the articles and letters in *The Courier* but what I don't understand is why this neglect has not been reported by the *Los Angeles Times*, as well. Is it not illegal to not deliver the mail? Is there no longer a postmaster general in the United States?

I hope the newspapers lawyers will follow this case and the refusal of the post office to receive the reporters.

— Anonymous

•••

I'm writing because of the ongoing pain I experience everyday when I receive someone else's mail, but not my own.

When it's clearly important mail belonging to someone else, not even the same street number or street. This is simply mail carrier ignorance. They're paid for a job they are clearly are inept at.

Not a single day goes by without receiving mail that doesn't have my name or address on it..... But who has my mail? Periodically, some kind neighbor will drop my mail off personally. I've actually gotten to know my neighbors, as we exchange mail, and frustration at the idiocy of the BH post office and the inability of the mail carrier to read a street name and address. Clearly they care as much as the management.

This is not a recent phenomenon. It's been going on for months. I'm still waiting for

a dress that was mailed via USPS for a wedding that took place in June. My son is waiting for his school text books. None of which are seemingly traceable.

In any other business that provided such a lousy service, they'd be out on their heels, so why isn't this being corrected?

Do we not pay enough taxes in Beverly Hills? Are the street names so difficult to read? Are the sorting machines and workers at the main post office in some type of coma-state? Perhaps we can set up a "Pick up?" As in, pick up our own mail, cause they're too bloody incompetent to deliver it!!!

I managed to find a temporary mail carrier a couple of blocks from my house. She said she's filling in for the other temporary mail carrier, as we don't have a permanent one for this delivery route. Interestingly enough, she said Beverly Hills mail is sorted at the main post office in West Hollywood. It no longer gets sorted on Maple Drive. (I guess they can't read there either). She recommended calling the supervisor at the BH Post Office, (?) with complaints, but said they probably won't answer..... No kidding!!!!!!

So while waiting patiently to receive my mail, that is often delivered by a kindly neighbor, the Post Office management and staff still collect a paycheck for not providing a service..... Where do I sign up??? — Anonymous



New Store Opening

SEVEN PALACE

Our store is merchandising the classic furniture made by 450 years old solid wood. Beautiful natural gemstone jewelry and beads.

9669 Brighton Way • Beverly Hills • 310-786-9963



LOOKING COOL IN THOSE SHADES—The City of Beverly Hills introduced a Sun Safety Program to their Preschool curriculum to ensure kids learn early about being sun smart. Monthly activities over the course of the school year will educate kids about the sun and its benefits as well as dangers. Here are Beverly Hills preschoolers adorning fun, adorable sunglasses to demonstrate their commitment to protecting their eyes in the face of the sun. Pictured clockwise beginning with girl in orange dress: Taina Berger, Jacob Bailey, Sofi Martin, Lyla Pizzurro, Mimi Martin, Chloe Magreffe, Gianna Casanova, Henry Maurer and Misa John.

Chelsea Clinton Talks New Children's Book With Beverly Vista Students

By Matt Lopez

Beverly Vista students got an inspirational treat Wednesday morning, when Chelsea Clinton surprised them in their school auditorium.

Clinton made a rare appearance at the school to promote her new book *It's Your World: Get Informed, Get Inspired & Get Going!* which "tackles the biggest challenges facing us today... and combines facts, charts, photographs and stories to give readers a deep understand-

ing of the world around them—and how anyone can make a difference."

Clinton spoke at length about her upbringing, her inspirations and life in and after the White House, where her father Bill Clinton served two terms as president.

Clinton urged students to get informed about issues facing them currently, and in the future. She said as a child she would always read the news-

(see 'CHELSEA CLINTON' page 18)

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Enzo—ID#A1583727 is a neutered male, brown and white Chihuahua, about 1-year and 12 pounds.

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CLOE—ID#A1587984 is a female, calico point Domestic Shorthair, about 9 years old and 16 pounds.

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BHUSD Attorneys Take City To Task Over Metro Permits

By Matt Lopez

In a scathing letter fired off Wednesday to City Attorney Larry Wiener, the Beverly Hills School District's legal team goes on the offensive about Metropolitan Transportation Authority permits approved recently by the City of Beverly Hills.

In the letter, obtained by *The Courier*, the district says City staff promised the district would have the opportunity to review and comment upon any Metro permits prior to their submission to the City Council for approval. According to Douglas J. Evertz of MURPHY & EVERTZ LLP, that in fact did not happen.

See the full text of the letter from the district's attorneys below. *The*

Courier reached out to City Attorney Larry Wiener Thursday afternoon for comment, but did not receive a response before press time.

Dear Mr. Wiener:

I am writing on behalf of the Beverly Hills Unified School District ("District") and with respect to the permits recently issued by the City of Beverly Hills ("City") in connection with work now being performed by the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority ("MTA") in the Beverly Hills High School/Lasky area. City Staff previously promised the District that (i) the district would have an opportunity to review and comment upon the MTA permits prior to their

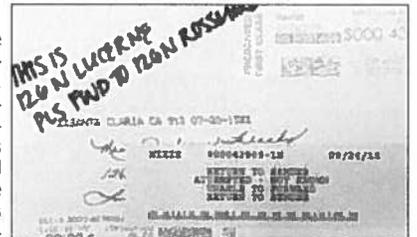
(see 'METRO' page 11)

Beverly Hills Post Office Fiasco Continues Angering Residents

By Victoria Talbot

The Beverly Hills Post Office continues to raise the ire of residents looking for missing mail. The situation is so bad that Councilmember Nancy Krasne suggested that the City post banners about water rate increases and penalty surcharges because the mail is so unreliable at Tuesday's City Council meeting. One resident phoned in her public comment to City Council regarding forwarded mail that did not reach her, and that she has been unable to retrieve. Her mail seems to be lost. "I think a City as important and well-known as Beverly Hills can do something," she said.

The Courier has also received several calls and letters from residents and businesses expressing their similar frustration. One woman shared two letters from the IRS she received erroneously, addressed to business owners, which could mean hefty fines and late fees if



UNDELIVERABLE? — One local resident tried to forward to the address on the envelope, only to receive the letter back "Return to Sender."

not delivered.

We received several phone calls from citizens who have been unable to find their missing mail, who have attempted to contact Postmaster Fuller and received no response. Many have filed formal complaints, and one woman has done so twice, and never received a response. The complaints must be filed at the post office, and

(see 'POST OFFICE' page 18)

Beverly Hills Passes Artificial Turf Ordinance; Mirisch Dissents

By Victoria Talbot

One item on the City Council's Consent Calendar Tuesday was held back by Vice Mayor John Mirisch Tuesday, despite overwhelming support, to make a statement about the inherent problems with artificial turf.

Beverly Hills new ordinance permitting artificial turf in the face of a devastating drought and cutbacks of 32-percent in water usage mimics a statewide bill that prevents homeowners' associations from prohibiting the use of artificial turf.

AB 349, authored by San Diego Assemblyperson Lorena Gonzalez, nullifies HOA prohibitions against artificial turf and was signed into law by Gov. Jerry Brown on September 4.

"Allowing artificial turf is a knee-jerk, short-sighted decision which could have detrimental long-term impacts," said Mirisch, pointing out that it has a limited life span that ends with disposal problems, because it is not bio-degradable, it may have an increased carbon footprint and it has the same impact as concrete, creating "heat

islands," as that can be as much as 40-degrees hotter. Manufacturers, points out Mirisch, recommend watering to cool it off. "Artificial turf contributes to global warming, is not carbon neutral, creates long-term landfill problems, and, as a synthetic, is not as environmentally-friendly as natural alternatives. And that doesn't even take into account all the plastic, synthetic aesthetic issues it creates. Natural is always better."

Both Councilmembers Nancy Krasne and Lili Bosse agreed with Mirisch's assessment. "With the state asking for a 32-percent reduction in water use it is important for us to give residents option to try to meet the requirements the state has mandated for conservation. This is not my first choice," said Bosse. "I don't think it is good for the City of good for the residents," said Krasne. "There are fabulous solutions people can use for drought tolerant planting. Before you spend thousands on artificial turf its cheaper."

The ordinance was passed 4-1 with Mirisch a nay.

CHELSEA CLINTON

(Continued from page 4)

newspaper to stay informed.

"I wanted to know what was going on for myself," Clinton said. "I didn't want to have to rely on my teachers or parents to give me the news."

That led to a five-year-old Chelsea writing President Ronald Reagan a letter, pleading with him not to visit the Bitburg cemetery in Germany because Nazi's were buried there.

"I didn't think an American President should be going to a Nazi cemetery," Clinton told the students. "I had read about it in the newspaper and just wanted to make sure my voice was heard."

Clinton called life in the White House "extraordinary, but also very normal" saying behind closed doors, she had a regular family life like any of her friends.

When asked by a student

MEL SPITZ

(Continued from page 5)

the media director. It was our understanding, as well as his, that he possessed the authority to grant this permission. If in fact, this is not the case, we apologize for any misunderstanding."

BHHS Principal David Jackson told *The Courier* Wednesday that it is believed the video was filmed during the Board of Education's most recent meeting, on Sept. 29. Jackson said a custodian working in the building let unidentified people into the classroom after they approached him and convinced him they had received clearance to use the classroom. Jackson said it is not believed that District camera equipment was used to film the YouTube spot, as it was all in use to live stream the ongoing Board of Education meeting.

Jackson confirmed that he was never given notice of use of the classroom for filming.

"I would not have approved it, absolutely not," Jackson said. "You have to pay for the rental of the room, provide proof of insurance, all the sorts of things we do in situations like that."

Romeo Carey, the longtime BHHS Media Director in question, flatly refutes the allegation from Spitz's campaign that he gave any sort of approval.

Carey told *The Courier* Thursday that he received a call on Sept. 29 from Neil Gordon, the father of a former student of Carey's. Neil asked to use a hallway in the building for filming, but never told Carey what filming would be done.

Carey said he didn't give permission, but asked Gordon to come meet with him in the K-BEV studios at BHHS and they would discuss the matter. Carey went on about his business directing the student-produced live stream of the Board of Education meeting, and didn't see Gordon until after the

what her "one wish" would be, if she could be granted any wish, Clinton said that was an easy answer.

"Truly equal rights for girls and women across the world," Clinton said, matter of factly.

Beverly Vista was selected as the only school in the Los Angeles area that Clinton visited on her book tour.

"I am thrilled that our students are being given the opportunity to hear from someone who has been involved in public service for so many years. Service learning is deeply ingrained in the culture of Beverly Vista and I believe Chelsea Clinton's visit will reinforce in our students the message of service to others," Beverly Vista Principal Christian Fuhrer said.

To purchase *It's Your World: Get Informed, Get Inspired & Get Going!*, visit www.amazon.com.

video was done filming.

"When I saw them I had no clue what had transpired, no clue as to the nature of what they were doing," Carey. "He simply asked about shooting a video on campus and I said come on down and we'll talk about it. I thought we were going to have a conversation."

In an e-mail to *The Courier* Thursday, Gordon claims Carey was well aware of everything that transpired with the video shoot.

"On Monday, September 28, 2015, I phoned Romeo Carey, Media Director at BHHS, and informed him that I was doing a political commercial for one of the candidates for the Beverly Hills School Board and that I wanted to shoot on September 29, 2015, at the Beverly Hills High School, either in a hallway or a classroom," Gordon said. "Mr. Carey said that I had his permission to shoot there. I reiterated, 'So that's it, we're clear to shoot,'" and Mr. Carey replied, "Yes."

The video shows Spitz in a classroom, walking along a row of desks and stating his case for election to the school board. At the end of the video, he is joined by his grandson, a fifth-grader at El Rodeo.

Jackson said in light of the filming of the video, BHHS is working to heighten enforcement efforts on who is allowed on campus.

"We are talking to our night staff, custodial staff and everyone here to make sure they understand that unless someone has a permit they can show them, to get a hold of myself or one of my assistant principals if there are any concerns," Jackson said.

Spitz is one of five candidates running for three open seats in the Board of Education election on Nov. 3.

OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT

(Continued from page 1)

Chirillo, who had served as the DARE coordinator for Beverly Hills, working in the schools, until the program was dropped.

Immediately upon his retirement only months later, Chirillo became the head of Campus Security for the Beverly Hills Unified School District under EBI.

McLaughlin found Chirillo to be a poor employee, and he was fired within months of beginning operations with BHUSD. But he was rehired after Snowden told McLaughlin BHUSD would drop the contract without Chirillo.

EBI suffered tremendous financial difficulties under Chirillo's management style and last November, they were forced to end their BHUSD operations suddenly.

Then-Chief Snowden, who failed to reflect the full tenure of his employment by EBI on

his financial Form 700 disclosures, denied any involvement in the EBI contract that employed mostly former Beverly Hills and Costa Mesa police officers that had worked for him.

Under scrutiny, Snowden produced a letter that was signed by former City Manager Jeff Kolin, which gave him permission for outside employment. However, a second required signature from Human Resources was not there.

Following a Public Information Request from *The Courier*, it was also disclosed that Snowden used his public email account on EBI matters, which is strictly forbidden.

The new municipal code will require the approval of the City Council for all outside employment proposals for Department Heads, City Manager, Assistant City Manager, or any Deputy City Manager, and all Executive Management.

"The policy needs to be clear," said Vice Mayor John

BEVERLY HILLS COURIER

Mirisch. "Outside employment is the exception, rather than the rule. There is too much potential for conflict. It should be rare."

Salaried department heads and executive management theoretically, must be available at all times. The City recognizes that some positions, for example a teaching position in an employee's area of expertise, could potentially benefit the City's reputation.

With salaries exceeding \$250,000, however, it remains questionable why the City even tolerates any outside employment for executive employees, considering the risk of conflict of interest and undue influence peddling.

The objective is to provide an additional level of transparency by requiring an additional level of approval that could avoid the potential for situations that may arise such as the EBI incident.

POST OFFICE

(Continued from page 4)

postal customers report that the service is rude and unfriendly.

Here are the letters generated by Mayor Julian Gold:

Dear Congressman Lieu,

As you may know, Beverly Hills citizens have been very vocal recently in their complaints about the local postal service. I am attaching a letter I recently sent to Beverly Hills Postmaster Koula Fuller expressing the City Council's concern.

We would greatly appreciate any assistance you can give us at the federal level to address these problems.

Sincere Regards,
Julian Gold, Mayor
City of Beverly Hills

•••

Dear Ms. Fuller,

I am writing on behalf of the Beverly Hills City Council to express our strong concern about reports of missed deliveries, discarded mail and other problems at the Beverly Hills Post Office. The outpouring of complaints from residents and businesses points to a serious breakdown of service.

I urge the postal service to conduct an operational and process review to evaluate options for improved service an enhanced efficiency. We count on reliable mail service every day, both in our personal lives and our businesses, and would like to know that these reports are taken seriously and measure are underway to resolve these issues.

Sincerely,
Julian Gold, Mayor
City of Beverly Hills

•••

Congressman Ted Lieu (33rd District, Beverly Hill) responded:

"Over the past few months, I have received a number of complaints from my constituents about poor mail service in Beverly Hills. I take these complaints very seriously and I have personally met with Unit-

ed States Postal Service (USPS) officials, including the Beverly Hills Post Master Koula Fuller, about this issue.

During the meeting, USPS officials assured me the Postal Police investigated and confirmed that any mail being destroyed is trash or bulk mail. They also listed several steps they are taking to improve counter service, correct mail delivery problems, including vacation holds, and prevent mail theft. In addition, USPS officials told me that they are working on refitting business group mail boxes with tamper resistant locks and as of October 1 they have assigned a new USPS regional manager, Mr. Alfred Santos.

I am encouraged that USPS is responding quickly to these complaints and I will continue to work with the Postal Service and the community to keep the pressure on until these problems have been resolved."

•••

Unfortunately, the Congressman does not get our mail. If he did, he would understand that the situation is definitely not improving. Instead, Koula Fuller is MIA.

Here is a response to a letter from Postmaster Fuller copied to *The Courier* Thursday. In it, Fuller reiterates that she is available by phone. Again, she points out that she was reassigned for eight years, in which there was no single person in charge or accountable in Beverly Hills. Clearly, our readers tell us, she is not available by phone. We could not reach her.

Dear xxx,

Thank you for getting in touch. I have been away from the Beverly Hills Post Office for some time and am sorry I have not personally received the letters you sent. The usual protocol is for such letters to be directed to the person, who was in charge at the time, for response.

I'm sorry for the occasional late-in-the-day delivery. Some-

times staffing, heavy volume or other circumstances cause our carriers to deliver on overtime. This is something we try to avoid, if at all possible, but we will deliver to every resident and business in the City each day, regardless of how long it takes to do so. It can be normal for mail volume to fluctuate from day to day. Our goal is to deliver every piece of First Class Mail every day, but we can and do adjust standard mail delivery to balance the carrier's workload.

Our delivery routes are regularly audited and adjusted by management and a letter carrier can also request that it be done. Part of this process includes an auditor walking the route with the carrier to gauge the time it takes to actually deliver the mail and packages. These audits are to maintain delivery routes as close to eight hours of work as possible. I know our letter carriers work very hard and I appreciate you making that reference.

The collection boxes in Beverly Hills are a standard, national design. I am happy to pass along your observations to US Postal Service Headquarters in Washington DC.

I have been away from the Beverly Hills Post Office for eight years, but am pleased to be back now and am working very hard to improve service. We are hiring more employees and providing more training in an effort to serve you better.

Please feel free to contact me any time, if you have questions or concerns. You can reach me directly on my office phone at 310 247 3404 or by email at koula.fuller@usps.gov. You may also contact Postal Consumer Affairs at 800 ASK USPS (800 275-8777)

Thank you, again, for getting in touch.

Sincerely,
Koula Fuller
Postmaster
Beverly Hills CA 90210-9998



HOLIDAY SPIRIT— Beverly Hills police officers spread Christmas cheer this week at Banneker-Doyle Career and Transition Center, participating in the Winter Extravaganza. BHPD raised \$2,800, provided a K-9 demonstration and brought a SWAT truck, police cars and motorcycles for the students to see. Every \$25 gift means a meal, a gift and entertainment to students with moderate to severe disabilities, ages 19-22. Pictured above, left: SWAT Officer Anthony Alonzo, and Detective Audre Alatorre with a member of the Banneker-Doyle center. Pictured above, right: K-9 Officers Tony Adams and Doug Matteson with K-9 Officer Aden and members of the center. Alatorre's father, BHPD Retired Detective Hector Alatorre, along with BHPD Retired Officer Ramon Valdez, helped start the program nearly 15 years ago.

Beverly Hills Students Eye Academic Futures After High School

By Laura Coleman

College acceptance letters are rolling in every day, and for the students of Beverly Hills High School class of 2016 who applied for early decision college admissions, that means a wealth of opportunities.

Already, 31 schools have sent offer letters to BHHS students, including Brown University, UCLA, Georgetown University, New York University and Princeton University.

"The list is looking really good," said BHUSD Chief Academic Officer Jen Tedford.

Last year, the Board of Education hired AhYoung Chi to serve as the BHHS dean of College Admissions in order to make the Beverly Hills applicant pool more competitive.

Tedford added: "Ms. Chi does an amazing job with our counseling program. She, along with all of our guidance counselors, are working hard to ensure the best opportunities for all of our students."

Said Chi: "Given how truly competitive admissions is, I think our students did really well. There's definitely a lot to celebrate."

School Board OK's Measure E Work At Horace Mann, El Rodeo, Beverly Vista

By Matt Lopez

Beverly Hills Unified School District finally seems to have some clear cut construction plans moving into the new year.

Using funds from the Measure E bond program, last Thursday the board gave direction to move ahead with a construction scenario that completes work at Horace Mann, modernizes buildings at El Rodeo, puts \$5 million toward repairs at Beverly Vista and creates design and construction documents at Hawthorne.

The total project cost would be just about all the \$120 million cash on

hand BHUSD currently has. \$200 million was drawn on Measure E and about \$80 million of that has been expended to date.

"No doubt work needs to get done, I just want the money in place before we start, that's why [this scenario] works for me," said boardmember Noah Margo, who gave direction to move ahead with the scenario along with boardmember Isabel Hacker and Vice President Mel Spitz. Margo added that a "very robust" bond election in November could pave the way to providing funds needed to complete all

(see 'MEASURE E' page 14)

New Year's Eve In Beverly Hills — Dinner, Drinks, Dancing & More

208 Rodeo: The restaurant offers a four-course prix fixe menu with live music in a gorgeous holiday setting. Call 310-275-2428.

The Beverly Wilshire: Dig into a five-course dinner with a live band and DJ at The Blvd. Call 310-385-3901. CUT by Wolfgang Puck offers a four-course dinner menu, followed by a party in sidebar with a live DJ to ring in the New Year. Call 310-276-8500.

Bouchon: Enjoy dinner from 6-11 p.m. with a three-course prix fixe menu. Call 310-271-9910.

DOMA: Chef Dustin Trani presents a five-course menu featuring a main course of American Wagyu Flat Iron with six-hour fontina soft polenta, port demi glaze and brown butter. Call 310-277-7346.

IL Cielo: Try a delicious four-course menu during the restaurant first seating, or five-course dinner at second seating, complete with champagne toast at midnight and dancing under the stars. Call 310-276-9990.

Mastro's: This Beverly Hills steakhouse will be serving its full menu of steaks, seafood, beloved sides like lobster mashed potatoes and desserts from 4 to 11 p.m.

Mr. Chow: Celebrate with a three-course semi-prix fixe menu with two seatings. The second seating includes live music and novelties. Call 310-278-9911.

Ocean Prime: Guests will be treated to a pear champagne cocktail and the chef's special surf and turf with a 6 oz. filet and 1/2 broiled lobster, prepared Thermidor style with asparagus. Call 310-859-4818.

Ruth's Chris: Dig into Ruth's Chris' three-course meal, featuring a 6 oz. filet paired with twin cold-water lobster tails. Call 310-859-8744.

SIXTY Beverly Hills: Caulfield's Bar and Dining Room offers a New Year's Eve menu, live music, drinks and dancing. Then head up to Above SIXTY to count down to 2016 with a champagne toast. Call 310-388-6860.

SLS Beverly Hills: Bring your mask for The Bazaar by José Andrés' fifth annual New Year's Eve Spanish Masquerade, featuring multiple dining areas and tray-passed tapas by James Beard award-winning Chef José Andrés. Call 310-246-5555.

Spice Affair: Spice Affair offers a four-course prix fixe menu with live music and dancing at the restaurant's Bollywood Party in the banquet hall. Enjoy unlimited drinks, exotic buffet and a DJ. Call 310-400-6800.

Wally's Beverly Hills: Executive Chef David Feau presents a four-course prix-fixe meal, accompanied by the music of DJ Alex Hegewald. Seatings are from 6-7:30 p.m. and 9-10:30 p.m. Call 310-475-3540.

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BONITA CHRISTMAS— Bonita is a 10-year-old, 15 pound Cockerpool. After many years of living outside, unfixed, having litters of puppies, she is now spayed and ready for the best part of her life: simply being loved. Those interested in adopting this sweet senior ShelterHopePetShop.org at 805-379-3538.



Misty is a 4-yr-old pit bull girl with strong bonding



Suzie is a 7-yr-old Dachshund mix that loves kisses.



Clara is a 6-yr-old tarrier who is very affectionate.



Owen is a 2-yr-old Chihuahua with terrific social skills

The above four dogs are available through Wags and Walks, a West LA Rescue. To adopt visit <http://www.wagsandwalks.org/adoption-application/>

Beverly Hills Post Office Issues Continue

By Victoria Talbot

This week, the mail carrier left a pile of undelivered mail atop *The Courier* building's mail slot.

There, on top of the mail slot, was a pile First Class mail addressed to people throughout the City, including what appeared to be two unemployment checks from the Employment Development Department (not in time for Christmas) and a statement from American Express.

So the problem is not even fixed at *The Courier*, despite our efforts.

How many people are missing their important mail this Christmas?

We continue to receive emails, though we have not reported on the situation in a couple of months. We pass these emails up the chain and hope for resolution. Sometimes we get a follow-up that a longtime problem was solved and we are delighted.

Most of the emails that we receive have common elements. Among them

Beverly Hills Postmaster Koala Fuller figures prominently. Despite her promises to answer every call personally, Fuller does not answer her phone or return phone calls.

Through intervention from the USPS public information officer, there have been specific cases where Fuller was allegedly reached and solved the problem.

Other problems include mail that is not delivered, mail that never arrives or arrives very late, days when no mail at all is delivered, mail delivered to the wrong address, mail that is redelivered to the same wrong address repeatedly, mail on vacation hold that is lost, the failure to forward mail to a new address (particularly of concern for one resident who was divorced and received his ex-wife's mail), and failed package deliveries.

Anyone with a postal dilemma can write us at vtalbot@bhccourier.com.

All natural, fresh ingredients sourced locally.

Gently cooked, not processed, at lower temperatures to retain essential nutrients

No artificial preservatives, that's why you'll only find them in the fridge.

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BEVERLY HILLS COURIER

The Newspaper of Record for the World of Beverly Hills

VOLUME: LI NUMBER 1 \$135 PER YEAR - \$1.25 PER COPY • www.bhcourier.com SINCE 1965 January 1, 2016



LONDON CALLING — Beverly Hills High School students rang in the New Year by participating in the prestigious 2016 London New Year's Day Parade, which starts on Piccadilly and finishes in Parliament Square. As part of a week-long trip to the United Kingdom from Dec. 27, 2015 through Jan. 3, 2016, 80 BHHS band and orchestral students, joined by over 25 chaperones and parent supporters, toured spots like London's historic West End, the Tower of London and the town of Windsor. On Tuesday evening, the BHHS orchestra participated in the London Gala Concert. Pictured left: the entire student group enjoys a tour at Hampton Court.

Photo by Sherri Rabin

Beverly Hills High School Marching Band Performs In London New Year's Day Parade—Celebrates 2016 With Week-Long Trip To UK

THIS ISSUE



Beverly Hills families prepared meals for the homeless last week. 4

BREAKING NEWS

City Manager Mahdi Aluzri confirmed to *The Courier* Wednesday that at the City Council's Jan. 5 evening meeting at City Hall, City staffers will present results of their investigation into the removal of trees on arsenic-laced soil along lots 12 and 13 last month.

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• Letters to the Editor 27



George Christy, Page 6
Movie Marketing
Maven Madelyn Hammond And Deadline
Hollywood's Film Reporter Pete Hammond Chose A Unique Card This Holiday Season

CLASSIFIEDS 21

- Announcements
- Real Estate
- Rentals
- Sales
- and More

By Laura Coleman

Today, starting at noon in the United Kingdom, the Beverly Hills High School Marching Band will celebrate the beginning of 2016 by performing in the London New Year's Day Parade (LNYDP). The three-and-a-half-hour parade, which celebrates its 30th anniversary this year, boasts more than 8,500 performers from

20 countries, including most members of the 90-member BHHS marching band.

The band first performed in the annual parade three years ago.

"This event has grown to be the largest of its kind anywhere in the world - bringing together participants not only from London and the UK, but from the far cor-

ners of the globe," said Alex Segal, Former Lord Mayor of Westminster.

Given the global politics that have recently driven many American institutions, musicians and schools to cancel trips abroad, with renowned groups including the American Ballet Theatre and the Dallas Symphony Orchestra cancelling entire sea-

sons outside the U.S., the BHHS band's decision to participate in the annual European parade is distinctive.

In fact, the BHHS band might not have gone to England to perform for its second time ever had the Board of Education not followed the advice of BHHS Principal Dave Jackson.

(see 'BHHS BAND' page 12)



BEEF BOWL — Stanford and Iowa football players will square off in the Rose Bowl today, but they stormed Beverly Hills this week and filled up at the annual Lawry's Beef Bowl. The Rose Bowl tradition, held every year at Lawry's The Prime Rib in Beverly Hills, pits the two Rose Bowl combatants against each other to see which team can consume the most meat. This year's winner was the Iowa Hawkeyes. Pictured: Lawry's server Ms. Ciccarelli hands off a plate of prime rib to a hungry Stanford player.

Buzzworthy In Beverly Hills – 2015's Top Stories

By Matt Lopez

There's no rest for the weary in Beverly Hills. Now at the wise old age of 101, Beverly Hills residents experienced another exciting, and sometimes confusing, year in 2015. Here's a quick look at some of last year's top stories, in no particular order of importance:

1. It's A Dog's World
After years of barking

(see 'BEST OF 2015' page 14)

Beverly Hills Post Office Ends Year With More Customer Woes

By Victoria Talbot & Matt Lopez

Despite a host of promises and assurances from representatives of the United States Postal Service, *The Courier* continues to receive complaints about the Beverly Hills Post Office, deliveries and Postmaster Koala Fuller, who evidently, still cannot get her phones to work.

One of the most concerning stories was residents lamenting that the Beverly Hills Post Office had closed at noon on Christmas Eve, earlier than most other L.A. post

offices, which closed around 5 p.m.

Wrote one customer:

"I went to the Barrington post office today and spoke to a lovely, friendly clerk who ... could help with a variety of small issues, like my buying the correct postage for International mail. I asked her what time they had closed on Christmas Eve and she said 5 p.m. When I expressed surprise and said Beverly Hills closed at noon, she said a few did, but they remained open for their regular hours because they are

(see 'POST OFFICE' page 12)



Celebrity Photo Agency/Scott Downie

THE REVENANT COMETH

— Leonardo DiCaprio, Tom Hardy, Alejandro González Iñárritu and Maria Eladia Hagerman walked the Red Carpet during the world premiere of 20th Century Fox and Regency Enterprises' *The Revenant* at the TCL Chinese Theater.

For more photos, see George Christy's column on page 6.

you could become the father if you donated sperm," he said. In the case of *Modern Family* star Vergara, who wants to keep frozen two female embryos she created with former fiancé Nick Loeb, Silberberg will argue that Loeb doesn't have a unilateral right to bring the embryos to term.

According to an agreement signed by both Vergara and Loeb when the embryos were created in 2013, one year before the two split: "No unilateral action can be taken with regard to the embryos unless both parties consent."

In November, Vergara married Joe Manganiello and has said she does not wish to have the embryos she created with Loeb implanted in a surrogate.

In April, Loeb authored a

New York Times editorial entitled: "Sofia Vergara's Ex-Fiancé: Our Frozen Embryos Have a Right to Live" advocating that he be allowed to have the embryos in order to bring "the girls to term and raise them."

Loeb, who offered to have Vergara declared an "egg donor" if she doesn't want to share custody wrote: "We signed a form stating that any embryos created through the process could be brought to term only with both parties' consent. The form did not specify — as California law requires — what would happen if we separated. I am asking to have it voided."

While the case may just come down to a straight-forward contract dispute, Loeb's argument that consent forms aren't binding underscores just how important it is that patients

at reproductive clinics understand that consent forms are intended to protect the clinic, not the patients, Silberberg said.

In the editorial, Loeb queries: "A woman is entitled to bring a pregnancy to term even if the man objects. Shouldn't a man who is willing to take on all parental responsibilities be similarly entitled to bring his embryos to term even if the woman objects?"

Silberberg says no. At the heart of *Roe v. Wade*, the landmark decision by the U.S. Supreme Court on the issue of abortion, is that the woman gets to make the determination about her body; she has a right to choose to carry a child to term.

"A person cannot unilaterally get custody in writing — unless both agree," Silberberg said.

BHHS BAND
(Continued from page 1)

"I thought every parent had to make the decision for themselves," Jackson said.

On Dec. 8, 2015, the very same night that a new Board of Education was sworn in to serve the community, and less than a month after the deadly terrorist attack in Paris on Nov. 13 killed 130 people, a group of parents met with Jackson to discuss if the students should even be allowed to go on the trip.

Jackson underscored that the trip was "done privately" and "not a school event."

"Parents make choices concerning their children each and everyday, this is just one more choice they will have to make," Board of Education President Howard Goldstein said at the Dec. 10, 2015 board meeting.

Since marching in the

BEVERLY HILLS COURIER
LNYDP 2013 parade, the band has marched at Disneyland, the Hollywood Christmas Parade, the San Fernando Veteran's Day Parade and down Rodeo Drive in Beverly Hills.

"I'm hoping the kids have a good time and return home safely...to class on Monday, January 4," Jackson said.

As part of the week-long trip abroad, which began Dec. 27, the 80 BHHS students in attendance have visited a variety of spots across London, in addition to Windsor Castle.

For information on the parade, visit: <http://www.lnydp.com>. To see footage of the BHHS Marching Band performing in the parade in 2013, visit: <http://bhccourier.com/beverly-hills-high-school-band-marches-london-parade>.

POST OFFICE
(Continued from page 1)

a busy post office and they wanted to be of assistance to their customers. What a concept! Beverly Hills could learn a thing or two. I am old enough to remember when it was the old post office and that was their office too, but certainly no longer."

We asked our corporate communications representative for the USPS. He responded:

"Post offices were open Christmas Eve, Thursday, Dec. 24, but many were authorized by the Los Angeles District to shorten retail lobby hours and close at noon. Regular mail delivery was unaffected by the change. Revised hours were posted in advance at each post office adjusting hours. This was a national holiday policy based on previous years' demand for retail service on this day.

All post offices were closed on Dec. 25 and there was no regular mail delivery. Only Priority Mail Express was delivered that day. All post offices were open and regular mail delivery resumed Dec. 26."

The early Christmas Eve closure coincides with what police say is an ongoing City-wide concern about mail theft, which was detailed by one resident who wrote to *The Courier* this week to detail her unfortunate incident.

"Just found destroyed mail by the side of the house. Torn envelopes with addresses to CC [Editors note: CC means credit card] companies and no checks. Police came out. This is what the police said: what the thieves do is put a sticky rattrap down the mailboxes with a string and pull out the mail! The police said to only mail at the post office! This has been a big problem in BH."

Only mailing at the post office is one thing, but when they close early, what are residents to do?

BHPD Sgt. Kurt Haefs told *The Courier* that mail theft has become an ongoing issue in Beverly Hills that the police are hard at work trying to tackle.

"We catch them often and do make arrests quite often on it," Haefs said, noting the thieves use fly paper tied to the end of a string to grab the mail and pull it out of the mail box.

"I would suggest grabbing your mail quickly," Haefs added as advice to residents who have mail delivered to their home. "Don't let it sit there for days and days inside your mail box."

USPS' communications representative responded:

"Reports of mail theft from collection boxes escalated all over Southern California during the holidays, as thieves hoped to steal gift cards and other

valuables in letters and cards.

"Postal managers immediately report occurrences as soon as detected or shared by members of the public to the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, and also to USPS field maintenance to clean the box of the glue. Letter carriers can report a collection box problem via their scanner device while on their route.

"USPS is responding to this problem by modifying collection boxes. Field Maintenance is in the process of removing the drop-down door on blue collection boxes and replacing it with a single slot with an anti-theft downward-angled shoot inside. With thousands of collection boxes in the LA area, they are responding to incidents as quickly as possible. Of course, when we do modify boxes, we get a lot of customer complaints that it is hard and inconvenient to put one letter in at a time and the anti-theft theft device inside makes inserting rigid articles difficult. The price we pay for security. (I'm pretty sure some modifications have taken place in Beverly Hills as one of the customer complaints you forwarded a while back had to do with collection boxes and the difficulty this customer had inserting her mail.

Theft prevention tips:
Most collection box tam-

pering and theft occurs under cover of darkness. USPS advises to place mail in blue collection boxes BEFORE final scheduled pick up of that SAME DAY. Do not allow mail to sit over night or over the weekend. Do not use a collection box that has a sticky substance on it. Be alert and check a collection box for glue or other devices that indicate it may have been tampered with before placing mail in it. Immediately report any suspicious activity to police."

With a unique quasi-government status, the USPS is legally defined as "an independent establishment of the executive branch of the government of the United States." A Constitutional office, the USPS has a legal monopoly on First Class mail delivery and thus, a legal obligation to provide service, the Universal Service Obligation (USO).

We also received this email:

"I'm incredulous as to why Beverly Hills has such a terrible ongoing mail delivery problem... Mail seems to come between 3 and 7 p.m., some days nothing. I'd heard of complaints about mail being stuffed halfway down mail slots. Now that's happening to us — with damage to our mailbox cover! The deliverer kept trying to put so much through the

(sturdy cast iron!) mail slot that a hinge broke! Now not only do we all have to put up with poor delivery but also damage to our mailboxes and filing claims to fix them! ...The phone number that I have previously called the Postmaster Koala Fuller at does not answer, ringing until it disconnects itself. I can't imagine what is going on at the USPS but it must be handled! We must need a new Postmaster."

Our postal representative responded that yet again, the phones were not working. "...The phone lines at the BH Post Office are out of service. It was discovered calls were not coming in or going to voice mail on Dec. 24. It has been reported to our provider and I will alert you when it is restored."

Oddly, this has been the case most of the last six months, and actually, it strains credibility.

Another resident reported that she had not received mail Thursday. The USPS reports that all the mail was reported delivered on Christmas Eve. That too, strains credibility with such a poor track record. Last week, *The Courier* found undelivered First Class mail, to various addresses, in our building foyer.

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LAS MADRINAS—Twenty-eight young ladies from throughout the Southland were presented at the Las Madrinas Debutante Ball in The Beverly Hilton for their community service and for the benefit of Children's Hospital Los Angeles. Back row (all from left): Daisy Dorathea Trout; Deidra Alston Logan; Caitlyn Cord Morton; Grace Catherine Morgan; Eliza Halley Houghton Bird; Reilly Butler; and Sarane Millie Caratan. Third row: Carina Lynn Tracy; Elizabeth Fitger Shoemaker; and Jessica Ellen Sarni. Second row: Claire Emma Nordstrom; Jennifer Jean Morton; Katherine Grace Hatton; Rachel Marie Beaver; Lauren Barrett Boyle; Alyce Marie McNulty; Pilar Mae Hoye; and Emily Marie Miller. Front row: Emma Grace MacEachern; Maureen Mary McConnell; Kelly Christine Poole; Brooke Elizabeth McCloskey; Anna Elizabeth Lamb; Zoe Jane Feist; and Julia Kathleen Adams. *Photo by David Balfour Photography - See story on Page 10*

Beverly Hills Post Office Botch Jeopardizes Care For Cedars-Sinai Patient

By Victoria Talbot

Resident Russell Smart filed a police report Tuesday when a visit to the Post Office to pick up a certified letter resulted in the employee insisting that the package had not arrived despite the tracking number showing that it had been delivered.

Smart, who has spent the last month at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center fighting for his life with kidney problems, was expecting funding to help pay for his medical care. The tracking number on the certified letter from Bank of America for a

3-pound package showed that it had arrived at the Maple post office on January 16 at 3:18 p.m.

Smart was also expecting a certified letter with a value of over \$60,000. The value of a CD he cashed to pay for his treatment, which has disappeared.

Smart said that he cannot have a new check issued until the matter is completely settled with the post office, but when he asked to see a supervisor, he was told that no supervisor was on the premises. "She said a
(see POST OFFICE page 19)

THIS ISSUE



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Julian Gold attended the U.S. Conference of Mayors in Washington DC. 12

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Rupert Murdoch And Jerry Hall Met Four Months Ago And Are Already Planning Their Wedding ... Melania Knauss Trump Tells Harper's Bazaar She Is Not Shy And Very Political, But Chooses Not To Appear In Public

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Beverly Hills High Graduation Standards Could Be Lowered

By Matt Lopez

Beverly Hills High School students could soon be facing new, more lenient graduation standards. The Board of Education broached the subject of altering, or potentially lowering, graduation standards Tuesday at its study session.

The discussion centered on whether or not to do away with the University of California (UC) sys-

tem's "A-C" requirements, which BHHS currently uses as a base for its graduation requirements, along with possibilities to offer alternative pathways to graduation.

"A-C" is a set of subject requirements in social studies, english, math, science, visual/performing arts, foreign language or career technical education and physical education that are mandatory for admission into a UC school.

(see 'GRADUATION STANDARDS' page 19)



The scene of last Friday's fatal accident near the Loma Vista/Doheny intersection. *Photo by Victoria Talbot*

Another Loma Vista Drive Auto Accident Claims Third Fatality

By Victoria Talbot

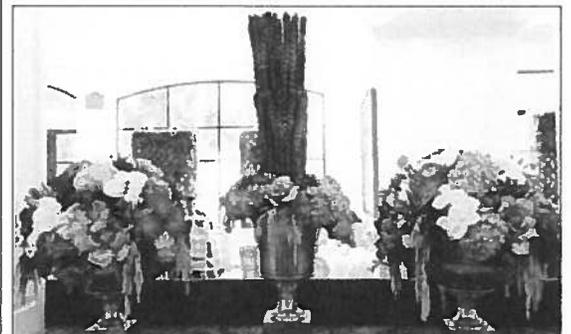
A truck driver in last Friday morning's crash in the 800 block of Loma Vista Drive died, said Coroner's Assistant Chief Ed Winter.

"The driver's name is Gerbis Jesus Gomez Rodriguez. He lived in the city of Los Angeles. The cause of the crash is under investigation. As part of the investigation we will be conducting an inspec-

tion of the vehicle and it's maintenance to determine whether mechanical issues were a factor in the collision," said Lt. Mike Foxen of the Beverly Hills Police Department.

The trucker, who was in his 20s, was trapped in the wreckage for about 30 minutes and died at a hospital about 10:30 a.m.

Friday's accident marks the
(see LOMA VISTA page 19)



THE BELVEDERE RETURNS—On Tuesday, The Belvedere at The Peninsula Beverly Hills officially opened its doors following an extensive four-month remodel that yielded a re-imagined menu and a striking new interior where museum-quality artworks now adorn the walls. The food is, to say the least, scrumptious. And the decor guarantees that every diner feels at ease whether enjoying a Mediterranean-inspired garden-fresh salad, or a decadent chocolate dessert. Call (310) 788-2306 to reserve a table. *Courier Photo by Laura Coleman*



Celebrity Photo Agency/Scott Downie

PANDAMANIA — Kate Hudson and son Ryder and Angelina Jolie attended the premiere of DreamWorks Animation and Twentieth Century Fox's *Kung Fu Panda 3* at the TCL Chinese Theatre.

Theirs are among the voices in the film, along with, Seth Rogen, Jackie Chan, Dustin Hoffman, J.K. Simmons, Lucy Liu, others.

For more photos, see George Christy's column on page 6.

Development Run Amok In Beverly Hills & Bel-Air, Homeowners Under Threat

See pages 3 and 7 for messages from local homeowners organizations on development nightmares in their respective areas. If you live in Bel-Air and would like the Bel-Air Association to truly be a transparent, effective and model neighborhood association, please contact mhobbs@bhcourier.com.

BHHS's graduation standards are based on the A-G requirements, although in some cases, such as history – BHHS requires three years of history while A-G calls for just two – Beverly Hills actually exceeds the UC's requirements.

A-G calls for two years of history/social science, four years of college preparatory English, three years of college preparatory math (three are required, four are recommended), two years of laboratory science, two years of a language other than English, one year of visual and performing arts and one year of a college preparatory elective.

According to a report from Beverly Hills Unified School District staff, BHHS ranked 18th among top performing districts in the state (San Marino Unified was No. 1, followed by La Canada, Manhattan Beach, Piedmont and Palo Alto in the top five). Only 67 percent of BHHS students were able to meet the A-G requirements, which district staffers view as a cause for concern.

Nearly half of BHHS graduates attend community college, but only 39.9 percent of those transfer to a four-year school within two years, according to the staff report. Only half of those transfer out in three-to-five years.

"A-G is not the problem or the solution," Board President Howard Goldstein said. "One-third of our students don't meet current requirements, so we have to figure out where is the educational disconnect?"

"We need to change our philosophy from being punitive to being compassionate," BHHS Principal Dave Jackson said, noting that he would like to see courses that taught students about "every day life... like how to balance a check-book."

POST OFFICE
 (Continued from page 1)

Mrs. Johnson was in a meeting with Postmaster Koala Fuller. The woman behind the counter was rude."

Smart said she asked him to leave and threatened to call the police.

Smart has filed a police report with the Beverly Hills Police Department and plans to take federal action.

But for now, this senior citizen is over \$60,000 when he is sick and vulnerable.

The Courier submitted his information to the Corporate Communications for the local USPS. We were informed that "a postal employee in Beverly Hills confirmed she delivered Mr. Russell's package to him, Jan. 19, at 3:21 p.m. and there is a delivery scan on that tracking number in the computer supporting the event."

Mr. Russell confirmed; a package was delivered but not the certified letter he so needs.

Another resident did not get a letter postmarked in Sep-

BHHS' Dean of College Admissions AhYoung Chi answered "absolutely not" when asked by the board if she felt removing A-G requirements would negatively affect a diploma from Beverly Hills High in any way, but the school board majority didn't seem ready to budge on lowering the bar.

Board Vice President Mel Spitz said when the item was agendaed, he heard from "many residents who expressed shock and concern that we would even considering lowering our academic standards."

Staff recommended changes Tuesday included: requiring algebra, geometry and a third year of math; a life science and a physical science (incentivize lab sciences and three or more years of science); one year of a foreign language (incentivize two or more years of the same language); two years of physical education; one year of visual/performing arts, while creating a pathway/academy for students to pursue careers in the arts and adopting a documented plan to increase A-G and four-year college admissions/specialty pathway programs.

The report did not detail what the aforementioned incentives would include.

The board largely seemed to be open to offering different pathways to graduation, but with a catch. Spitz agreed with boardmember Lisa Korbатов that perhaps a different diploma for students who graduated with A-G requirements would be in order.

"I have a hard time believing that once we offer various pathways to graduation, that it's going to increase the number of students who are opting for the more rigorous curriculum," Spitz said. "If we did have, say, two pathways... I think maybe there's a graduation diploma and a graduation with honors or cum laude, as an incentive of some kind.

tember until January and sent us a copy of his letter to the DMV:

A week ago (letter dated 1/16/16) I picked up my mail from my PO box - I go there about 3x a week - and amongst my other mail I found your letter - DMV - and a letter from Bank of America - both dated from Sept. 2015. On opening the DMV letter for my license renewal I saw it was due 12-8-2015. I immediately went to the Beverly Hills P.O. and explained the problem, showing them the 2 letters. I asked to speak to the supervisor. They told me she had gone already; to come back the next day and she would see me. I did that but was now told to fill out a form and the supervisor, upon reading all of that, would get back to me within 24 hours. When I returned after 24 hours, not having heard from the supervisor, I was told to come back the next day. I told the clerk all I want is the P.O. to state this was mislaid. Next day there still was no communica-

tion from the supervisor. I have gone to the B.H. Courier since they had articles deriding the P.O. and to the Automobile Club who told me to write to you. I have paid my DMV fees since 1953 and assure you would have paid this on time had I received the notice. I am enclosing a check for \$272 and beseech you to waive the penalty of \$163 under the aforementioned circumstances. I plan to send a copy of this letter to my congressman and to The Courier since this is not the way for a P.O. to behave.

The P.O. clerk I have seen and who can corroborate everything is Marilyn Wong. The Supervisor's name I was told is Renee Johnson.

We continue to receive calls and letters from the residents who have issues with the Beverly Hills Post Office. Please send your emails to vtalbot@bhcourier.com

Editor's note: Consider the dysfunctional Beverly Hills Post Offices when you decide how to file your taxes.

LOMA VISTA
 (Continued from page 1)

third death in less than two years along the same steep stretch of road on Loma Vista. In March and May of 2014, LAPD officers were killed in separate accidents with construction trucks.

Sgt. Max Subin of the Beverly Hills Police Department said a landscaper's delivery truck with equipment and specimens in the bed of the truck was heading south on Loma Vista near Doheny Friday morning and "seemed to have lost its brakes and was unable to stop."

The vehicle was a medium-sized flatbed truck with a cab that held specimen trees to be delivered.

Subin said surveillance cameras in the area show the truck clipped a vehicle that was also traveling southbound, but at normal speeds, on Loma Vista. After crossing Doheny but before reaching Mountain Drive, the truck slammed into a parked Prius on the east side of the street, spinning it 180 degrees and destroying the entire front end, before hitting a brick wall and coming to a rest in the 800 block of Loma Vista Drive.

Police are not yet releasing the names of those involved, including the Prius' owner and the first vehicle that was clipped, but are aware of the identities and have interviewed them. The Prius' owner was visiting at the residence where the truck came to a stop.

The exact cause of the crash is still under investigation, but this accident is within a block of two accidents that killed LAPD officers in 2014.

LAPD Officer Nicholas Lee was killed March 7, 2014 when his patrol vehicle was struck in the Doheny intersection by a construction vehicle hauling heavy equipment that lost its brakes. Detective Ernest Allen, Sr. was killed May 2, just weeks later, when his private vehicle was struck by a full cement mixer that had lost its brakes and collided with Allen's small

truck before hitting a tree. The cement mixer drove up the trunk of the tree and fell backwards onto Allen's truck, striking it a second time, where it came to rest.

BHPD Sgt. Scott Dowling said the landscaping truck was likely traveling at speeds between 70-80 miles per hour when it hit the Prius, sheared off a tree at the roots and hit the vine-covered brick wall. The truck's cab went through the wall where it came to rest inside the perimeter of the private residence.

On June 17, 2014, following the LAPD fatalities, the Beverly Hills City Council directed staff to implement a series of measures to address heavy haul vehicles traveling to and from construction sites in Trousdale.

The measures are being examined in communities throughout the hillside areas of Los Angeles County for their effectiveness, as construction in these areas consider the Baseline Mansionization Ordinance and height restrictions by excavating hillsides to dig for more square footage for large, single-family homes. The resulting excavation requires heavy hauling trucks to remove hundreds of thousands of cubic yards of dirt from construction sites. Excavation is followed by cement trucks needed to shore up walls and truckers hauling large construction equipment and supplies needed for building pylons and 20,000 to 100,000 sq. ft. mansions.

In Trousdale Estates, the City reduced hauling hours so trucks would not be on the street during morning and afternoon school drop off, set haul routes, reduced the size of trucks allowed on the streets, created an inspection requirement and mandated a secondary braking system.

Construction parking is required to be off-site, and vehicles over 26,000 pounds or 10,000 pounds with three or more axles are required to give 24-hour advance notice before entering Trousdale Estates.

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