

THE BEVERLY HILLS COURIER

★★★★ The Best Read Newspaper in Beverly Hills ★★★★★



AN APPLE A DAY—The Apple Harvest Faire is back for a fifth year this Sunday, Oct. 24, from noon to 5 p.m. on the front lawn of Beverly Hills High School. The fall festival offers something for every age including food by local restaurants, a ferris wheel, train trips, a giant slide and thrilling rides. There will be Halloween hairdos, glitter tattoos, live music, a boutique, "Spooktacular" crafts, a video game coach and fun games. Admission is free, but every dollar spent on food and fun goes back to each of the five Beverly Hills public schools to ensure academic excellence through the Beverly Hills Education Foundation. Pictured (from left) is the BHEF's Apple Harvest Faire Committee: Tami Adams, Jodi Galen, Nadine Neiman, Marti Ornest, Annette Saleh, Barbara Gillham, Zarrina Kaufman and Sara Brooks. For more information go to www.bhef.org.

Photo by Marc Saleh

How Much Is That Doggy In The Window? Annual Bow Wow Beverly Hills Event Returns With 'Whodunit?'

By Amanda Peabody

When shopping along Two Rodeo next weekend, you may hear an odd sound. Is that barking? Why yes, it is. It's Bow Wow Beverly Hills time again.

Kicking off Halloween weekend Oct. 28, the Amanda Foundation will host "Bow Wow Beverly Hills Presents Whodunit? A Halloween Puzzle" at the iconic Two Rodeo location, starting with a cham-

pagne reception at 7 p.m.

The evening, which will cap with a doggy costume contest and tasty treats for adult companions by McCormick & Schmick's, will launch a weekend (Friday, Oct. 29-Sunday, Oct. 31) of pet adoptions in stores and businesses around Beverly Hills, from 2-6 p.m.

Find your rescue mutt at stores such as Baracci, Brooks Brothers, Porsche Design, Wes-

time, Judith Ripka, Peter Marco, Christofle, Damiani, Gearys Beverly Hills, Judith Leiber and many more.

Tickets to the "Whodunit?" event are \$200 for VIP admission. General admission is \$60 in advance, \$75 at the door.

For more information or to purchase tickets to the event, visit amandafoundation.org or call 310-278-2935.

The Beverly Hills Literary Escape Begins Today In City

By Amanda Peabody

Escape this weekend with a good book... or maybe several as the City primes itself to host The Beverly Hills Literary Escape, Oct. 22-24.

Bringing together food, wine and books, the three-day festival will be a weekend of events for the reader, offering intimate conversations, readings and panels with leading authors.

"It's an exciting opportunity to have an intimate experi-



Author Colum McCann

ence with top notch authors," said the Beverly Hills Public Library's Acting Director of Community Services Nancy Hunt-Coffey. "It's exciting to have

some high quality literary programming here in the City."

The Beverly Hills Literary Escape is the brainchild of City resident and commissioner Lili Bosse and Julie Robinson, founder of the Beverly Hills-based Literary Affairs, a company that offers upscale book clubs and literary events.

The event kicks off with the free "Movable Feast" on Canon, which will feature

(see 'LITERARY ESCAPE,' page 7)

American Airlines Adds Routes Around The Globe

By Brenton Garen

It was a big news week for American Airlines, which announced it would add 33 new routes from LAX, including new international services out of Los Angeles.

AA Chief Commercial Officer Virasb Vahidi said the new routes from LAX starting April 25 represented a 28 percent increase from its current flight schedule.

"Our operations and services in the City and the state have grown considerably to the point where last year we car-



AA CCO Virasb Vahidi

ried nine million customers in and out of the city of Los Angeles," Vahidi said. "(This) brings

our total number of departures from the state of California to 267 to 35 destinations across the U.S., Pacific, Latin America and Europe."

A further \$20 million will be invested into sister carrier American Eagle at its LAX terminal increasing its number of gates from six to 10.

On Oct. 1, American Airlines, British Airways and Iberia Airlines launched their joint business and can now co-operate commercially on flights be-

(see 'AMERICAN,' page 7)

City Council News And Notes

By Adam Popescu

• Two Hour Free Parking Initiative To Be On March Ballot

City Council voted unanimously Monday to order a report on the impact of the two-hour free parking initiative.

While G&L consultant Harvey Englander touts the virtues of bringing two-hour free parking to most City lots, City Treasurer Eliot Finkel has warned of budget shortfalls should the measure pass.

Staff are now working to study the fiscal impact on the City before further direction is given.

• Special Event Parking Tax Raised

Continued violations of parking signs during City special events will now result in a \$285 fine, up from \$90.

With limited towing capabilities, offending vehicles will only be towed if police deem them a hazard, such as blocking residential driveways or obstructing the path of emergency vehicles.

• Campaign Disclosure Ballot Measure To Be Studied

The Sept. 20 study session directed City staff to draft a report to require local ballot measure committees to disclose certain information to the voters. At Monday's meeting, City Clerk Byron Pope informed Council of the report.

Requirements include ballot committees reporting contributions and expenditures more frequently than otherwise required by state law. The ordinance mandates reports for periods ending 30 and 10 days before the election. Councilmember John Mirisch pushed to broaden the reports to 45 days before elections.

The City clerk would maintain a publicly available online database, allowing voters to see who contributed to ballot measure committees, as well as the expenditures being made.

Any advertisement placed by a ballot measure committee would need to identify those persons or entities contributing more than \$10,000 to the committee. State law requires the same type of identification for contributors of more than \$50,000.

Additionally, all advertisements would contain information on the ballot measures displayed, and supplemental information accessible at the City's website.

• Fiscal Year Taxes, Fees Reviewed

Budget and Revenue Officer Don Harrison briefed the council on specific fees, stemming from Council's May 18 direction to study FY 2010-2011 comprehensive schedule of taxes, fees and charges.

Reviewed fees, administered by Community Services, Community Development and the BHFD, include the fee for appeals to City Council from decision of any commission or board, application fee for the nomination of a structure to be named a historic resource, in-lieu parking, youth sports, facilities use, brush clearance and EMS transport.

The current fee for an applicant wishing to appeal to the City Council is \$4,730, raised from \$301.60 in 2007.

Staff recommends the historic nomination fee be lowered from \$11,317.70 to \$4,906.

In-lieu parking fees collected on Rodeo Drive, Beverly Drive and throughout the triangle range from \$28,008 to \$46,680.60. The restaurant expansion fee is \$11,593.80.

Youth sport fees for FY 2009-10 totaled \$95,204.93.

Brush inspections fees revolved around non-compliance, with offenders facing increasing fees starting at \$383.28 for improper brush maintenance.



BHHS GETS THE SCOOP ON SPORTS—The Beverly High Sports Media Club hosted former ESPN analyst Stephen A. Smith, last week. More than 100 students attended the club meeting. Smith, a prominent and recognizable member of the sports world, spoke to the students about ethics and he career. Pictured (from left): Sports Media Club Treasurer Ramtin Mobasheri, Vice President Hooman Zarrabi, Stephen A. Smith, Benjamin Hannani, and Secretary Michael Yosef.

LITERARY ESCAPE

(Continued from page 4)

dozens of authors, live music, book signings and exclusive offers and pricing at area restaurants.

A bevy of other events including a Penguin Classics Tea at The Peninsula and a literary luncheon are scheduled throughout the weekend.

Award-winning author Colum McCann will close the weekend at the Saban Theatre Oct. 24 at 7:30 p.m.

Participating in the weekend-long affair is also vital to the health of the BHPL. Ten per-

cent of all book sales throughout will benefit the Friends of Beverly Hills Public Library.

"Every dollar that the Friends raise comes right back to support the library," said Hunt-Coffey. "They provide tens of thousands of dollars for books and materials. They are entirely supporting the Homebound Delivery program. They pay for equipment for the Teen Zone and the summer children's reading program. They are the driving force that makes this library special."

For a full listing of events or for more information, visit www.bhliteraryescape.com.

Viceroy L'Ermitage Water Leak Frustrates Resident

By Brenton Garen

Each time Rodolfo Monaco passes by Viceroy L'Ermitage Beverly Hills, he is frustrated to see water continuously streaming into the street gutter from a drain pipe connected to the hotel.

The Maple Street resident estimates that thousands of gallons of water flow into the City's storm water collection system each month – and it has done so for some time.

"When I drained my pool, I saw how much water it took over two days to refill it," Monaco said. "About the same amount of water is coming out

of the hotel every 48 hours that it could fill a swimming pool."

The Courier inspected the problem this week to see firsthand how much water was flowing out of the drain, which is located to the right of the hotel's valet area on Burton Way.

The water flowed steadily down the street gutter for several blocks before disappearing into a storm drain at the corner of Burton and Maple.

"Along with our local neighbors, we remain concerned about the source of water in front of the property which had been a challenge for the previous owners for many

years," said Sal Abaunza, general manager, Viceroy L'Ermitage Beverly Hills.

"Since we assumed ownership in January, we have worked diligently with the City of Beverly Hills and independent water testing laboratories to successfully ensure the cleanliness and safety of the water, which was our primary concern.

"We continue to work to identify the exact root of the problem, and seek to find a resolution as soon as possible."

The Courier will keep you updated on the issue.

AMERICAN

(Continued from page 4)

tween the EU, Switzerland and Norway and the US, Canada and Mexico.

One of the first benefits of this new joint business is Iberia Airlines starting four-times-per-week service between Los Angeles International Airport and Madrid. The new service will begin in Spring 2011.

American will also launch a service between Los Angeles and Shanghai. The new route will enhance American's service offering to China when it launches in April 2011, using 247-seat Boeing 777 aircraft which feature 16 First Class, 37 Business Class and 194 Economy Class seats.

USC's Center For Regenerative Medicine And Stem Cell Research Opens

Two years after breaking ground, USC is opening the \$80 million, five-story Eli and Edythe Broad CIRM Center for Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research, Oct 29.

The 87,500-square foot building is home to basic and clinical researchers working collaboratively on stem cell research in three categories: basic and discovery stem cell research, preclinical research and development and clinical research.

The building was funded through a \$30 million gift from The Broad Foundation, a \$27 million grant awarded by Cali-

fornia Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM), and monies donated through private philanthropy.

Pacific Hills School Hosts Speaker Tonight

At 6:30 tonight, Pacific Hills School will host Amherst College Prof. Ilan Stavans, a leading scholar on Latino culture, language and identity.

Contact Ann Wagner at 310-276-3068 ext. 114 or e-mail awagner@phschool.org.



ADL ENTERTAINMENT AWARDS—The Anti-Defamation League honored NBC Universal's Jeff Gaspin (right) with its Humanitarian award as part of its Entertainment Industry Awards dinner. Also pictured (from left): Mark Ordesky, event committee chair; Alan Weil, ADL regional board chair; Amanda Susskind, regional director; and *America's Got Talent* 2010 winner Michael Grimm. Howie Mandel was emcee with Jeff Zucker, Ron Meyer and Bonnie Hammer serving as honorary dinner chairs for the event which raised \$600,000 to help ADL fight bigotry, prejudice and anti-Semitism. Among the 400 attending were Mark Ordesky, Ted Sarandos, Susanne and Greg Daniels, Amy Poehler, and Mary McCormack, Peter Gallagher and the cast from *The Real Housewives Of Beverly Hills*. **Photo by Michael Kovac**

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