

The BEVERLY HILLS

The Best Read Newspaper in Beverly Hills

COURIER

VOLUME XXXIII NUMBER 54 \$135 PER YEAR - \$1.25 PER COPY • www.bhcourier.com

AUGUST 1, 2008



EAGLE AND BADGE GALA – Pictured at the Hyatt Regency Century Plaza (from left) philanthropist Margie Petersen; event chair/executive producer Arthur M. Kassel; honoree Michele Leonhart (acting administrator with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency); standing, Stan Schuster, Beverly Hills Cigar Club, and Beverly Hills executive Emerson Glazer. All gathered for the Eagle and Badge Foundation gala to honor community leaders and pay tribute to fallen LAPD SWAT officer Randal Simmons. *See Pgs. 19-22*

City Council To Debate Chamber Performance Audit

By Chris Sieroty and Lee Barnathan

Mayor Barry Brucker doesn't want to wait to discuss separating the Conference and Visitors Bureau from the Chamber of Commerce, so he will bring a recommendation before the City Council when it studies the performance audit on Tuesday.

Brucker, who along with Councilwoman Linda Briskman sit on the ad hoc committee that oversaw the audit, has expressed his displeasure over the CVB being part of the chamber. He

said he rejects the audit's finding that there needs to be some sort of master plan to decide if the CVB should be separated, and he disagrees that it requires a two-year transition period.

In an e-mail, Briskman said, "our goal is to determine the best structure of our unique City."

She said at the study session on Tuesday, the whole council will have an opportunity to hear the consultant's finding and recommendations.

"At that time we can begin examining options for moving forward," she said.

Despite, Briskman's cautious approach to reviewing the performance audit, Brucker said he will recommend on Tuesday that City Manager Rod Wood create a transition team to develop a transition plan that will last 12 to 18 months and guide the CVB in the future.

"I believe within 12 to 18 months we can transition the CVB methodically, intelligently and definitively," Brucker said. "My God, you can build a \$100 million bridge in 24 months. I think we can manage a \$2 million

(see 'COUNCIL,' page 9)

School Board Approves Record \$334 Million Bond

By Judy Echavez

The future of the Beverly Hills School District's bond measure will be finalized on Wednesday. At a non-televized meeting Tuesday night, the five-member board engaged in a lengthy discussion to determine if the largest school bond measure in the City's history should be placed on the Nov. 4 or March 2009 ballot.

The \$334 million General Obligation Bond measure would repair serious safety and security issues at the four K-8 campuses and Beverly Hills High School discovered by engineers and architects during a recent facilities

study. More than \$100 million would cover critical seismic structural upgrades to ensure schools can withstand damage from 6.0 or 7.0 earthquakes.

Consultants suggested the board pass the bond, which would extend the current tax rate rather than increase it, after George K. Baum & Co. conducted a survey with registered voters. The results showed significant support, 79 percent of the people phoned said yes to the bond.

School board member Steven Fenton said, "If we want to pass a bond measure, then we have to prove to the community

why we need this."

Fenton, who favors the bond, suggested adding the measure to the March ballot to organize a creative campaign committee who can raise money for it.

Since the election is less than 100 days away, he said "the odds are against us if we're on the November ballot. If we go out for it in November, we have the Hilton referendum and the presidential campaigns to compete with. Our community is going to be inundated."

Dr. Brian Goldberg, who also supports the bond, abstained from Tuesday's vote.

(see 'SCHOOLS,' page 25)

Chamber Audit Looks At Splitting Off CVB, Increasing Day Visitors

By Chris Sieroty and Lee Barnathan

Beverly Hills has always been a unique shopping destination. However, the City known for Rodeo Drive, plus luxury stores like Neiman Marcus and Saks Fifth Avenue is facing increased competition from other cities offering a similar shopping experience.

In nearby Los Angeles, Westfield Century City mall is attracting upscale shoppers looking for convenience, while in Costa Mesa, South Coast Plaza offers Cartier, Saks Fifth Avenue, along with spa services and restaurants.

"Cities constantly need to reinvent themselves," said Jack

Kyser, chief economist with the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corp. "For a long time Beverly Hills was a fortress, a place where (consumers) purchased high end goods. Now you have increased competition."

Beside upscale malls, Kyser said Beverly Hills is facing increased competition for consumer's disposable income from more trendy places like Robertson Boulevard, Melrose Avenue and Melrose Place.

To combat the changing retail landscape, the City Council in January commissioned a performance audit of the Chamber of Commerce. That audit released

(see 'AUDIT,' page 9)

IN THIS ISSUE!

The Courier's Magazine:

This issue:

- Private Chefs
- Brighton Way
- John Martens
- Ethiopia Part II
- Beverly Hills Farmers' Market
- Joan Rivers sizing up the gals and more!

Look For It Inside & On Newsstands!



WOMEN IN FILM – Meg Ryan (left) and Annette Bening joined a sold-out throng at The Beverly Hilton to attend Women in Film's Crystal+Lucy awards gala which honored Diane English, Salma Hayek, Ginnifer Goodwin, Sherry Lansing, Mandy Walker, and Jeffrey Katzenberg. *P photo by Gilbert Flores/CelebrityPhoto.com*

INSIDE:

George Christy, Page 6.
Remembering Aaron;
Paris' Social Lioness;
Jay's News; & The Chili Shocker



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Community Reacts to School Board decision to move forward with a \$334 million bond, Pg. 4



LAPPL's 2008 EAGLE & BADGE GALA HONORS CIVIC LEADERS AND LAPD'S FALLEN SWAT OFFICER RANDAL SIMMONS

The Eagle & Badge Foundation of the Los Angeles Police Protective League had over 1,000 guests on hand at the Hyatt Regency Century Plaza as it honored Jane and Bert Boeckmann, California Attorney General Jerry Brown, Tina and Rick Caruso, Rudy Durand, Michele Leonhart (acting administrator of the US DEA), Maj. Gen. Douglas Pearson (VP of Lockheed Martin and U.S. Air Force, retired), and LAPD's SWAT officer James Veenstra with an emotional tribute to officer Randal Simmons (LAPD SWAT) – posthumous honor.

KCBS sports news anchor Jim Hill co-hosted the show along with Arthur M. Kassel, event chair/executive producer. Special presentations were made by *Access Hollywood's* Billy Bush and KTTV news anchor Christine Devine, with the live auction lead by the incomparable Sharon Stone. The Los Angeles Police Protective League and the Hyatt Regency Century Plaza Hotel were the key sponsors. Additional major supporters included Maloof Sports & Entertainment, Elliott Broidy, Caruso Affiliated, Galpin Motors, and Steve Wallace.

Honorary chair was L.A. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa. Dinner chair Elliot Broidy and vice chair Peter Repovich thanked the committee and supporters. Additional presenters included former Gov. Gray Davis, LAPD Chief William Bratton, LA County Sheriff Lee Baca and Congressman Dana Rohrbacher along with LAPD SWAT Lt. Mike Albaniz, evangelist Benny Hinn, U.S. Marshall Tony Amador, LAPPL President Tim Sands and Tony Chapa from the US Secret Service. Performances included saxophone artist J. Boykin, who opened the evening with an inspired rendition of *The Star Spangled Banner*, hilarious comedian Norm Crosby and R&B legend Thelma Houston, who closed the show with a rousing set of her classic songs.

"The event was an outstanding success - not only financially but also with the dramatic outpouring of support and compassion for the family of officer Randal Simmons, for officer James Veenstra, and all the brave men and women of the LAPD. I was proud to be a part of such a remarkable evening," said Arthur M. Kassel, event chair and president/CEO of the Eagle & Badge Foundation.

Funds raised at the dinner gala will benefit the Eagle & Badge Foundation, the Tichi Wilkerson Kassel Parkinson's Foundation and The Glory Kids. For more information on the Eagle & Badge Foundation, call 818-994-4661 or visit the website www.eagleandbadgefoundation.org

Photos by William Kidston, Maxine Picard, Clinton Wallace and Glen Lipton



Honorees Bert & Jane Boeckmann with Sheriff Lee Baca



LAPD SWAT Commander Mike Albaniz (r) & Arthur M. Kassel (l) and all 1000 guest paid special tribute to the family of fallen SWAT officer Randal Simmons



Eagle & Badge Chairman Peter Repovich, Gen. Doug Pearson, Cong. Dana Rohrbacher & LAPPL President Tim Sands



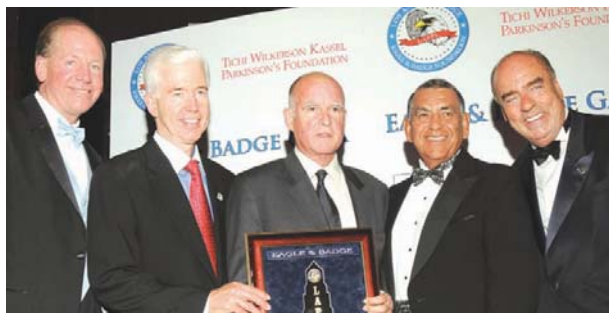
Peter Repovich, Chief Bill Bratton, DEA Acting Admin. Michele Leonhart, Sheriff Lee Baca & Arthur M. Kassel, President & CEO, Eagle & Badge Foundation.



SWAT officer Jim Veenstra with LAPD SWAT Lt. Mike Albaniz



Tim Sands, Arthur Kassel, Tina & Rick Caruso & Chief Bill Bratton



LAPPL President Tim Sands, former Gov. Gray Davis, Att. Gen. Jerry Brown, US Marshall-Eastern District, California Tony Amador & Arthur Kassel



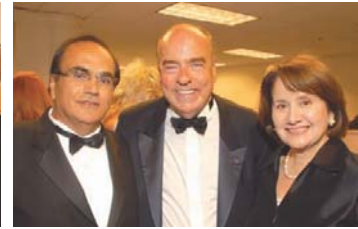
Tim Sands, former-Gov. Gray Davis, Billy Bush, Rudy Durand & Peter Repovich



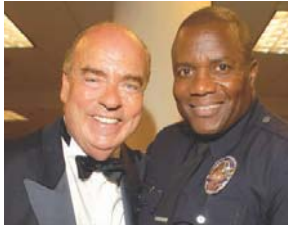
Dinner Chair Elliot Broidy, Co-Chair Brad Mindlin & Event Chair/Executive Producer Arthur Kassel



Eagle & Badge Vice Pres. Jack Cota, Peter Repovich & Sheriff Lee Baca



Abdu & Lourdes Saab, L.A. Chief of Protocol flank Arthur Kassel



Arthur Kassel & SWAT Officer James Hart



Attorney General Jerry Brown, Councilman Bill Rosendahl, Arthur Kassel, Rick Caruso & Donald T. Sterling



Arthur Kassel, Rikki & Chief Bill Bratton



Arthur M. Kassel, Tony Arizondi and guest, Michele Leonhart & Gene Johns



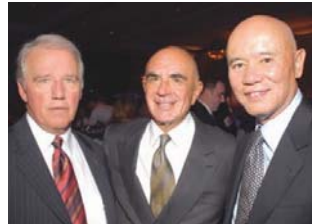
The Courier's Publisher Clif Smith with Dorothy Kathryn, Candace & Clif Smith III



Asst. Fire Chief Craig Fry, Capt. Vidovich, Arthur Kassel, Lenny Sands & David Hiller



Tim O'Hara of Beverly Hills Bentley donated use of a Bentley convertible for live auction



DEA Foundation Chair Bill Alden, Robert Shapiro and Michael Yamaki - The DEA Traveling Museum comes to LA Oct. 1



Christine Devine, Arthur Kassel, Officer James Veenstra and Peter Repovich



Congressman Dana Rohrbacher



L.A. Councilwoman Janice Hahn



Dr. Jeff Cummings



LAPPL's General Counsel Hank & Nancy Hernandez with Peter Repovich



Hector Barreto



Colleen Maloof, Adrienne Nassif, Arthur Kassel & Marcella Wynn



DEA ASAC Jon Goldberg and DEA ASAC Brian Grey



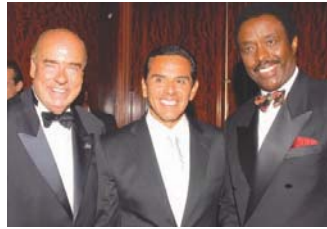
Hugh & Virginia O'Brian, Bert & Jane Boeckmann riding the live auction electric American Chariot which was bought by Billy Bush



Margie Petersen, Pastor Benny Hinn & Arthur Kassel



LAPD experience



Arthur Kassel, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and Jim Hill



LAPD experience



LAPPL President Tim Sands



Leon Kennedy, Chris Nassif, Janet Blasius, Arthur Kassel & Roberta Silbert



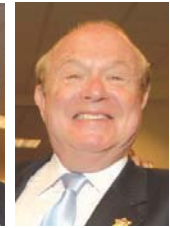
Mr. & Mrs. Brian Johnson, LAPPL Director



Rick & Tina Caruso



LA City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo



Eagle & Badge Boardmember Sheldon Lyton, Esq



Lou Ferrigno with LAPD Honor Guard



Thelma Houston rocked the house



Mike Leum, Mgr., Sheriffs Reserve Bureau



Tony Chapa Dep. Dir., US Secret Service



Ray Maytorena LA SAC, US Secret Service



Bishop Turner, Paula Kent Meehan & Rudy Durand



Eagle & Badge Board of Governor Robert Lorsch with Elizabeth An



DEA SAC Timothy Landrum, John Riley & Diana Gonzales



Phil Burrell, Mr & Mrs. Bill Fujioka & Helen Mars



Presenter Chuck Ashman



Lou & Carla Ferrigno



Raju Rasiah jewelers donated a \$37,000 necklace to the foundation



Rich Magyar & Norm Crosby



Former LAPD Asst. Chief David Gascon



Mr. & Mrs. Mike Brown



Saxophonist J. Boykin performed an amazing rendition of the national anthem



Sharon Stone convinced Richard Choi to buy the Bentley.



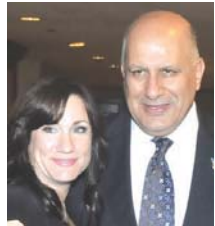
Sharon Stone & Arthur Kassel



LAPD experience



Thelma Houston & Jim Hill



Veronica Becerra & Councilman Dennis Zine



Margie Petersen, Arthur Kassel, Stan Shuster, Emerson Glazer and Honoree Michele Leonhart



Annaliisa & David Trulio
Former Exec. Dir. Homeland
Security, The White House



Anthony Pacheco
Pres. Police
Commission



LAPD Asst. Chief Jim McDonnell
& Connie Rice



Asst. Sheriff
Paul Tanaka



Carol Connors
& Alan Jackson



Catherine & Kyla Jonas
with Lee Baca



Cathy Butler



Christine Devine with
her new terrier Pips



Event Co-Chairs
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Visco



LAPPL Board Member
Corinne Lee
and Arthur Kassel



L.A. Councilman
Greig Smith



Major General Doug &
Mrs. Pearson



Medical Adviser to Tichi Wilkerson
Kassel Parkinsons Foundation
Dr. & Mrs Jeffrey Cummings



Janet Blasius
& Jeff "Skunk" Baxter



Mark Fleishman, Arthur Kassel, Norm Crosby
& Mimi Fleishman



Mitra & Myles Berman



LAPPL President Tim & Shelly Sands



Mr. & Mrs. Don Gonneville



Mr. & Mrs. George Eliot



Mr. & Mrs. John Mumma,
LAPPL Boardmember



Mr. & Mrs. Nuch Trutanich



Mr. & Mrs. Mike Grossman with John Hensley



Police Comm. Alan Skobin & Romi
Skobin



Rodeo Drive Jeweler
Raju Rasian



Tim Sands welcomes Sharon Stone as an Eagle
& Badge Honorary Member



Sam & Paulette Storm



Mr & Mrs. Jim Amormino



Randy Field



Wilbur Faulk