

BEVERLY HILLS COURIER

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The proposed property at 1184 Loma Linda Dr. (pictured above, left) could tower over the hillside of Beverly Hills in the same way the controversial 901 Strada Vecchia (above, right) has threatened to do in Bel-Air.

Residents Galvanize Over Megamansion Development On Loma Linda

By Victoria Talbot

A project by Canada's Aquilini Development and Construction, Inc. at 1184 Loma Linda Dr. is coming back to the Planning Commission Thursday and many residents are not happy.

The proposed project, by Vancouver Canucks hockey team owner Frances-co Aquilini, is a coming-out party, launching the next phase of his career in the United

States. A Craigslist ad for a site supervisor reads, "Be part of the ground floor team launching a steady stream of U.S.-based high-end home projects, backed by the resources of Aquilini Development and Construction, Inc., one of Canada's premier developers . . . You'll play an important role as we build super high-end luxury homes in Bel-Air, Beverly Hills, West Hollywood and other locations."

But for the neighbors, these plans literally hover over their futures.

The project first drew attention at a meeting Dec. 11 of last year, when Aquilini proposed a 25,532-square foot residence including 12,443

(see 'LOMA LINDA' page 10)

THIS ISSUE

EXCLUSIVE: Brian Goldberg will not run for another term on Beverly Hills School Board

Lewis Hall is running for another term, but Brian Goldberg has announced he will not. Find out the latest on the race on page 4.



New BHPD Chief Dominick Rivetti had a busy first week at the helm.



Jillian is one of this week's Freshpet adoptable pets of the week.

- Fashion 8
- Birthdays 16
- Letters to the Editor 27



George Christy, Page 6

Animal Activist Shera Danese Falk Is Being Honored, Along With Priscilla Presley, On October 24th During The Last Chance For Animals Charity Dinner At The Beverly Hilton

CLASSIFIEDS 21

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



SALUTE TO MARGARET J. ANDERSON — The City of Beverly Hills dedicated a plaque at Will Rogers Park to Margaret J. Anderson, the "first lady" of Beverly Hills. Pictured above, left: Margaret's great-grandson Robbie Anderson, Jeanne Anderson and Robbie's son Jack Anderson.

Lintermans: Cutting Beverly Hills Hair Since 1964

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

Competition in the world of hair-dressing is always high, but it took an unusual twist in Beverly Hills in the late 1970s.

Call it a Beverly Hills "family feud" of sorts, it was Lintermans vs. Lintermans for hairdressing supremacy. Eric Lintermans had splintered off from the family business, run by his father Aurelien Lintermans, who opened his first Beverly Hills shop on Rodeo Drive in 1964.

At the time, father and son

were gelling well as 51-49 percent partners in the business, but the relationship went sour when Eric's ex-wife wanted to open up a line of beauty products, an idea Aurelien was strictly against.

(see 'LINTERMANS' page 15)



Aurelien Lintermans on Rodeo Drive in 1966.

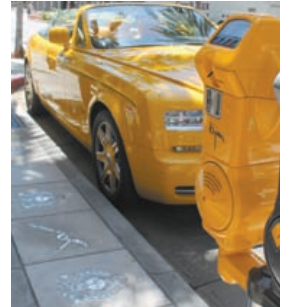
Rodeo Drive Committee Befuddled By House Of Bijan's Seven New Plaques

By Laura Coleman

It started in whispers around the community. *Did you see what the House of Bijan did?* Indeed.

Roughly four months ago, the luxury Rodeo Drive retailer installed seven plaques outside its front door, just beside the now-yellow parking meter where one of Bijan's iconic cars, such as the Rolls-Royce or the Bugatti, parks daily. The plaques, essentially advertisements for the designer, which feature the design house's crest or tagline, are now being met with disapproval on the part of the Rodeo Drive Committee.

At its meeting this week,



Bijan has drawn the ire of the Rodeo Drive Committee.

the Committee voted to take action regarding what it characterized as a (see 'BIJAN' page 18)

Beverly Hills Elder: Joe Tilem, Mayor, Sailor, Lawyer

Part 47 in a series on Beverly Hills residents who have grown with the Centennial City

By Laura Coleman

Former Beverly Hills mayor Joe Tilem is a particularly jovial man, with a memory so crisp it belies the fact that he was a child of the Great Depression.

Born in 1927 in Manhattan, New York, together with his younger brother and sister, Joe grew up working in his father's hardware store, eventually watching it go bankrupt in the Depression and struggling to eke out a meagre existence as so many around them were doing.

Many years later in Beverly Hills, just a few years after Joe's father had passed away, he and his brother, Martin, opened



Joe Tilem

Lucerne Hardware on Crescent in 1983—giving it the same name as the store once run by the strong, hard-working man who had raised them.

"I said to my brother, 'In memory of dad, let's start one,'" Joe recalled.

(see 'JOE TILEM' page 9)

BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE —

Greg Lauren and Elizabeth Berkley, along with Skylar Duddy and her mother Joely Fisher, attended The Dizzy Feet Foundation 5th annual Celebration of Dance Gala at LA Live's Club Nokia.

Joely is the daughter of Connie Stevens. Also there were Ben Vereen, Adam Shankman, Nigel Lythgoe, Russ and Bonnie Tambllyn, Jenna Dewan-Tatum with Channing Tatum, Paula Abdul, Billie Lourd whose parents are CAA's Bryan Lourd and Carrie Fisher.

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



Celebrity Photo Agency/Scott Downie

BEVERLY HILLS REAL ESTATE

LOMA LINDA

(Continued from page 1)

of "basement" cantilevered over the hillside with moat-like water features protruding above the homes and Coldwater Canyon Park with the preschool below.

Grading included the export of 8,081 cubic yards of soil, encompassing 22-round trips daily for 30 months with two bars, underground parking for ten cars, and an indoor basketball court and bowling alley.

The 22 foot-wide Loma Linda Drive with hairpin curves and steep hills is reminiscent of the conditions on Loma Vista Drive, where construction vehicles killed two LAPD officers. At the end, Loma Linda exits in a sharp turn onto Coldwater Canyon.

In a hearing last December, the Planning Commission told Aquilini that the project needed major changes. Four of the five commissioners, Chair Howard Fisher the exception, rejected granting permit approvals.

In fact, Aquilini was advised to meet with a subcommittee, including two commissioners, to create a transparent dialogue with neighbors and to improve the project proposal.

However, at the January meeting, PC Chair Fisher, who at first recommended the subcommittee, offered the developer the option of bringing a revised proposal back to the Planning Commission for a public hearing—instead of meeting with a subcommittee and neighbors.

At the December meeting, Aquilini was directed to substantially reduce the size and impacts of the project and City staff was directed to clean up the MND, which was full of errors and omissions.

In addition, major traffic impacts were simply omitted, including concrete and rebar delivery and worker vans, construction-related parking and the failure to identify the preschool in the documents.

And despite having had more than eight months to prepare the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND), the project was dropped on stakeholders with only days for review. Neighbors received the MND Monday afternoon; the final set of plans arrived at 11:30 Monday evening by email to neighbors.

Given the history of the developer's submissions, neighbors knew they had to look very closely for mistakes and

omissions. Despite residents' request for time, the late submission allowed little opportunity for analysis and response.

In the revised documents, the difference in cumulative square feet was achieved by the removal of three of the ten underground parking spaces and the indoor basketball court.

The current project proposal still calls for 21,415 square feet and 5,374 cubic yards of soil export with up to 18 round trips per day for 25 months of hauling only.

But the City's project guidelines still only allow for 15,000 cumulative square feet and hauling 3,000 cubic yards of dirt. To move forward, the Planning Commission must grant R-1 permit approvals for the exemptions.

"In order to approve a Hillside R-1 Permit for a single family home, the commission must make the specific findings that 'the development will not have a substantial adverse impact on the scale, integrity, or character of the area or on the privacy of the neighboring properties.' The Commission cannot make these findings, because the proposed development is nearly four times the average size of other homes on

rectly into the private backyards of nearby residents," said Attorney Sheri L. Bonstelle, Partner at JMBM.

But perhaps the most audacious request is for a street vacation. The developer is asking the Planning Commission to recommend to the City Council their support to take the end of the cul-de-sac, which is highly unusual and controversial, removing that portion of the street from the public purview and giving it to the developer.

In exchange, the developer says that he will build an improved fire department turnaround.

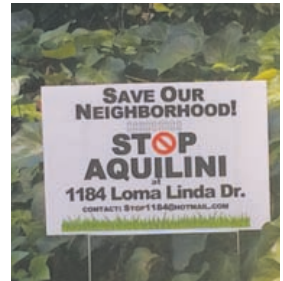
That is hardly a replacement for the cul-de-sac where people safely recreate and enjoy the views, including residents from Coldwater Canyon, where traffic prevents pedestrian traffic, and the surrounding areas, as well as Loma Linda.

"For the city to grant a private developer exclusive possession of the public right-of-way to the detriment of residents and in opposition to residents—would be breathtaking," said Murphy.

In 10 years there have only been three such vacations; and only once for residential development.

The Aquilini project has galvanized the opposition. Yard signs dot the neighborhood, proclaiming "Save Our Neighborhood; Stop Aquilini."

Over 85-percent of neighborhood residents have signed a petition opposing the project. *The Courier* is in possession of the letters and peti-



Residents opposed to the development have posted yard signs throughout the area.

tion for verification. Overdevelopment, it seems, has reached a tipping point in Beverly Hills.

"This project would destroy the neighborhood's intimate character; invade the privacy of neighbors and Coldwater Canyon Park below the project; generate enormous traffic dangers and congestion on Loma Linda and Coldwater; and subject the neighborhood to excessive noise and dirt," said Murphy.

For those who thought this could not happen here, think again. Pitting residents against real estate developers, tension has crossed the invisible line.

Such galvanization has begun to take shape across the hillsides of Los Angeles. In Bel Air, neighbors have formed the Bel-Air Alliance to fight Los Angeles City Hall and developers. Celebrity resident Jennifer Aniston has joined the fray. Sullivan Canyon is facing similar problems.

The megamansion development has coalesced the neighborhood as developers like Aquilini and Mohamed Haddid begin bulldozing through canyons where generations of residents have sought refuge.

Neighbors expressing opposition, some with lawyers including Ben Reznik, are expected to be at the hearing on Thursday, Aug. 13 at 1:30 p.m.



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Loma Linda, the design clashes with the quaint street of historic homes, and the project's massive decks look di-

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