



OVERVIEW

FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Issue #54

Fall/Winter

2017

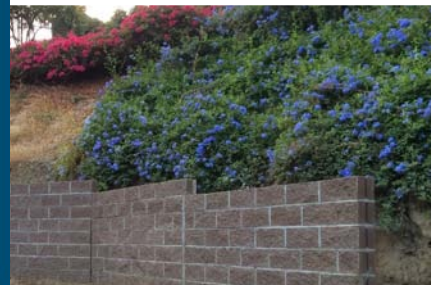
COMMUNITY MATTERS



Special Neighborhood Issue



No one is rich enough to do without a neighbor.



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President's Message / Shirley Mims

OVERVIEW

A semi-annual publication created and distributed by volunteer residents, neighbors, friends and supporters of the Franklin Hills Residents Association—a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization

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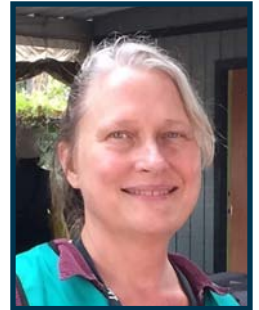
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Soon after I moved to the Franklin Hills almost twenty five years ago, I was greeted by the FHRA when volunteers were distributing notices about the Shakespeare Bridge earthquake retrofitting project. I was compelled to get involved and became the liaison between the neighborhood and City. It was my first experience as a volunteer and I've been active ever since. I enjoy calling Franklin Hills my home.



The articles in this issue speak to neighborliness. Neighborliness is how we treat one another. It's about working together to solve problems such as the noise issue at King Middle School, Airbnb rentals, completing the Shakespeare Bridge Garden, and the small lot subdivision developments that are crowding our hillsides. It's about coming together to check on one another through the Map Your Neighborhood program in the event of a major disaster. Neighborliness is also about sharing good times from enjoying the bounties in the Norman Harriton Community Garden and the beauty of the Franklin Avenue Median to enjoying walks with our friendly companion pets and listening to the birds and other critters that cohabitate with us.

In this issue we introduce a new Community Matters section. Neighbors can share personal information and tell stories from around the community. In this edition we share memorials for long time community activist Phil Lee and Carole Nese's beloved Poppy.

There is no greater neighbor than Bruce Carroll. He retired from the board after serving 25 plus years. Bruce was a founding member of the FHRA and was instrumental in keeping the FHRA business end organized and smoothly flowing. He was our Renaissance man. Besides his main role as treasurer who's final report graces the center of this issue, he was also the communications director, membership coordinator, webmaster, historian, Overview editor, handyman... he is especially a friend. We miss his wit and generous time on the board.

As we transition all the work that Bruce did, we welcome new volunteers and board members to fill his shoes. Eventually the rest of us will retire, too. We have a wonderful start with Steve Myers* who is revamping the website, Alix Soubiran who is helping with promotions, Melinda Taylor who is refurbishing the median, David Brooks who has started up our social media efforts, and Karen Thompson a graduate of Marshall High School who is looking forward to helping to improve the neighborhood. The FHRA needs more new people such as these to take the helm of this wonderful organization. Please join us.

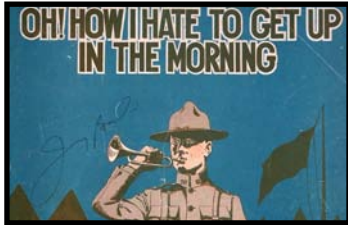
**Spelling of name corrected. ■*



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Thoughts on Neighborliness / *Alix Soubiran, Franklin Hills resident*



"Reveille" is a bugle call, trumpet call or pipes call most often associated with the military and prisons; it is chiefly used to wake military personnel and prisoners at sunrise. The name comes from réveille (or réveil), the French word for "wake up".

Neighborliness, I have come to find-out has a different cultural meaning depending on where you live. I lived in Paris for almost thirty years and have called the Franklin Hills home for ten.

When I lived in Paris, I was fortunate to live on a charming private street lined with trees, small embassies, and a concierge next to the gate. One might assume I knew all my neighbors since this private street was a little world unto itself; I didn't.

I would come across the same people often and they would respond to my greeting with the muted enthusiasm of a ventriloquist; somehow, between their teeth and almost silently. Occasionally, I'd get a nod from the armed guards outside the embassy harboring Sadam Hussein's brother in hiding. If you're looking for him, he's on a cobblestoned street in the 16th arrondissement. For obvious reasons, this was a neighbor I never even saw.

I bought my home in the Franklin Hills ten years ago and having learned American customs from television and movies, I felt a certain anxiety about whether I was supposed to bake cookies for my neighbors or if they were supposed to bake some and put them in a basket for me. I had seen this in a Desperate Housewives episode and either prospect made me feel equally uncomfortable. "Neighborly" is a word with no direct translation in French. "*Voisinage*" simply describes those who live around you, a cold geographic fact. I came to these Hills with a Parisian mindset.

Neighborliness, Continued on Page 20...



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Birds Are Our Neighbors, Too / Anne Richardson

I blame it on the woodpecker. One day I was walking my dog as usual around the hills, when I heard an odd, rhythmic sound. A man walking by noticed my confusion and said: "Sounds like a woodpecker." I completely disregarded his observation, as I had never thought any such exotic species would be in the Franklin Hills. But I was drawn to the sound and zeroed in on where it was coming from. Sure enough, I saw a faint object pecking at the deadened part of a tall tree in the Clayton loop. I borrowed my mother's opera glasses the next day and went to see whether it was still there. It was. Using an app my mother had urged me to download, I soon identified the precise species from the sound, colors, size, and habitat: Nuthall's woodpecker. Absolutely no doubt.

From that day last spring to this, I have become quite the amateur birder, embarrassing as that may sound. The most commonly seen in the Franklin Hills I call the "big four," which you will see on any given ten-minute walk around the hills morning or evening: the Northern Mockingbird, Anna's Hummingbird, the Mourning Dove, and the House Finch. Next most visible, I have seen American Crows, Mallards, Green Parrots, Scrub Jays, and House Sparrows, the latter unmistakable as they chirp gregariously in their bushes. But beyond that, I have seen European Starlings, California Towhees, Spotted Towhees, Redtailed Hawks, Coopers Hawks, Hooded Orioles, Black Phoebes, Bushtits, Blue Herons, Tree Swallows, Cedar Waxwings, and the aforementioned Nuthalls Woodpecker. All of these I have spotted while walking around Holly Vista, Prospect Ave, Franklin, Ronda Vista, Clayton, and Mayview.



Bird Watching in Griffith Park

Wanting to learn more, I signed up for a walk in Griffith Park with the Audubon Society on Bird Day LA (held each May during migration season), and we saw 14 species in a matter of 3 hours. By then I was hooked. Birding is a small step toward becoming more aware of our surroundings, and a

Bird Watching, Continued on Page 6...

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Update: The Franklin Avenue Median Garden / Melinda Taylor

Readers who have lived in the neighborhood for 20 years or more, and who have been members of the Franklin Hills Residents Association for that period of time may remember FHRA articles of long ago describing the Association's interest in removing the sloping asphalt ground plane bisecting Franklin Avenue just west of the Shakespeare Bridge, and replacing it with a garden. Sometime during the course of the Association's interest, I got involved in the project, and designed a garden for the site- a garden primarily to be "visited" while passing, by car or as a pedestrian on the Franklin Avenue sidewalks.



Memorial rock on median

The garden project was primarily financed by Armida Bolton, in memory of her late husband, and it was also financed by many of you, by the City of Los Angeles, and by the FHRA. Thanks to all of you for making this happen.

In the years that have passed since I designed and was involved in the building of this garden, my hair has turned grey and my baby son has become a graduate student. Imagine my joy stepping onto the median a few months ago with some of my workers who helped install the plantings there many years past, and visiting with plants that you, they, and I planted so many years ago!

When I envisioned the median, I wanted it to be a space that was a beautiful lead-in to the Shakespeare Bridge, when approached from the west, and an elegant "farewell" to the Franklin Hills, when approached from the east. I wanted it to feature California native plantings and other

Mediterranean plants of similar climate needs, both because of these plants' beauty, and also because of their ability to thrive under difficult conditions. I know these plants well through my work, and I wanted you to have the chance to get to know them too, to see them every day when you dropped off kids at Franklin Elementary, or headed back into the Franklin Hills after work. I wanted you to get to know them for the tough and beautiful plants that they are, and see their growth over time.



Cleaning up the median

There are lots of things we could talk about regarding the Franklin Avenue median: things like how seemingly insignificant spaces can be spots of real beauty and meaning in our lives; about how putting a plant in the ground with enough room to allow for it to grow into its full size gives the plant itself the chance to show its true characteristics, and us, its viewers, a chance to really get to know those characteristics; how we don't really need water to have nice gardens once we get our plants established; how fun and satisfying it is to come together as a community and make something beautiful together- the list goes on and on.

Right now the FHRA and I are doing some pretty minor things to rehabilitate the garden we made together so many years ago: planting some fill-in plants where plants have expired, fixing some low planter walls that came loose over the past 20 years, weeding out some plants that got established in undesirable spaces, etc. It's great fun to re-connect with this garden.

If you are of a mind to help us, we could use your small financial contributions to help pay for this work of pulling weeds, re-staking broken concrete planting walls, and replenishing mulch. Every bit helps offset the commitment made by the FHRA to restore and keep the median garden looking great.

I am spearheading the "rehab", and, as I already mentioned, I am delighted to see how little that requires. My staff and I have chosen plants to add, done lots of weeding and pruning, and "fixed" the old irrigation system (meaning we replaced the batteries operating its valves). Really, I'm just having a great time seeing what stars the California native plants are, over time. I'm happy to be visiting the site, happy to be thinking about this garden again, hoping that you are enjoying the median garden as your own. If you want to comment on anything written here, please contact me at info@melindataylor.com. I'd love to hear from you. ■

LAPD Update / SLO Lenning Davis



Hello Everyone,

It is amazing how fast time goes by. As I write this, the Holidays are rapidly approaching and it is time to start thinking about being extra safe this time of the year. I hope that everyone had a safe and happy Halloween.

I had an interesting conversation last month with one of the investigators for USPS. He told me that as of this year, Silver Lake and surrounding communities were now the highest in package thefts from homes in the United States. 41% of Americans had 2-3 packages delivered to their homes last year which jumps to 70% over the Holidays. Over 11 million Americans had a package stolen from their home in 2016. When having a package delivered, please consider having it sent to

your work or at a location where someone will be home. You can also request it be signed for before leaving it. Finally, Amazon has a locker service that is very effective.

On September 16th, I had the pleasure to participate in a Map Your Neighborhood (MYN) safety drill thanks to the hard work of Shirley Mims and others in the Franklin Hills. MYN is a very effective tool in organizing your neighborhood in case of a large disaster. As we have all seen recently in the news, natural disasters can strike anywhere at any time. If one were to occur here, it could be days or even weeks before first responders – police, fire, medical and utilities – could arrive. Not only is it important to be personally prepared, but your neighborhood should be as well. Consider participating in this program.

We finally were able to have our Northeast Station's Open House event on October 28th. If you came, I hope you were able to enjoy the resource fair, tours of our new station, hot dogs and trick or treating for the kids. You are welcome to visit our station at any time. It is located at 3353 N San Fernando Rd.

Take care and I hope to see you all soon. ■

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...Bird Watching, Continued from Page 4



Mockingbird nest. (S. Mims)

great way to get out of your own head. Did you know that Los Angeles is so diverse geographically that nearly half of the approximately 800 species in the United States have been spotted somewhere in the county? See <http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-la-bird-day-20170505-story.html>.

If you are intrigued, I recommend you download the free Cornell Lab of Ornithology's App called Merlin, which helps you identify birds by clicking through where you saw the bird, the color, the size, and -- most miraculous -- by sound. It's like learning a new language. Now, as I walk my dog around the hill, I am aware of all the feathered creatures whose songs I hear, whether I can see them or not. Next steps could be to birdwatch at the LA River or visit the Audubon Center at Debs Park. While you're at it, consider a small contribution to the Audubon Society or your favorite local birding outfit, to help protect these marvelous, brilliant creatures whose habitat is ever encroached upon by us humans. ■

Questions About Airbnb and the Los Angeles Home Sharing Ordinance / Carole Nese

“Will my neighborhood change with too many Airbnb rentals?”...

“I don’t know who’s living next to me anymore, and what about the noise?”...

“Neighborliness to me is seeing familiar faces on my street”...

“Is it all about the money and will Airbnb’s ruin our community?”...

Many FHRA residents have infinite questions and concerns about Airbnb. As this was going to press, there were several complaints about high powered fireworks being fired off from an Airbnb rental on Cumberland. The city of Los Angeles has been working for more than two years to pass an ordinance with the City Council to address this issue. The current version has very specific rules which can be viewed in their Home Sharing Ordinance Background and Frequently Asked Questions Fact Sheet updated on June 2017.

The summary states that “short term rentals, which are rooms one may rent for less than 30 days, are currently not permitted in the vast majority of Los Angeles under the zoning code. However, with the growth of Internet companies such as Airbnb and VRBO, there has been a significant rise in this activity. While there are many benefits to sharing one’s home, it presents challenges for the City’s neighborhood, its zoning regulations and to an already tight housing stock.”

The Home Sharing Ordinance outlines the main criteria for Home-Sharing:

- Short-term rental of one’s own primary residence only
- No more than 180 days a year
- You must possess a Transient Occupancy Tax Registration Certificate from the Office of Finance

Airbnb, Continued on Page 19...

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FHRA's 2017 Neighborhood Disaster Preparedness Earthquake Drill

by Carole Nese and Shirley Mims

Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico, Mexico, Japan and California...all have experienced loss of life and major destruction due to hurricanes, earthquakes and fires within the last three months.

Each one of those areas is prone to natural disasters but no one ever expected so many major catastrophic events in such a short amount of time. Is the "Big One" in California next?

We're all aware of the risks and the latest prediction from Dr. Lucy Jones, the well known now retired Cal Tech seismologist. The "Earthquake Lady," as she is known, continues to warn us, "**Earthquakes are inevitable but the damage they cause is not.**" If we are prepared we can together survive the possibly many days or



Ben Park (center) explains the MYN program to neighbors.

weeks that we will have to get along without police, fire or emergency services.

FHRA created the disaster preparedness committee headed by Shirley Mims and Carole Nese over a year ago. With the help of Ben Park, a major spokesperson for the Map Your Neighborhood (MYN) Program, Carole and Shirley have gone block by block throughout Franklin Hills educating neighbors about how to help each other in a major disaster. MYN teaches you how to care for your family, pets and next door neighbors during a disaster.

Drill, Continued on Page 9...

...Drill, Continued from Page 8



Drill participants discuss safety with SLO Lenny Davis (left) and Station 35 Fire Captain Tim Ramirez (right)

On September 16th of this year, FHRA held their first Community Earthquake Drill, asking all of the participants on the 10 blocks that have gone through the Map Your Neighborhood training to perform the drill with their block and then come together to talk about their experiences.

Lycée International de Los Angeles graciously offered us meeting space on their school grounds. We had a good turn out of about 30 people who were all focused on what we can do to help one another in the event of a major disaster such as an earthquake. Most who attended had just finished part I of the drill on their block. A couple others asked to sign up. The gathering was small enough that neighbors had a chance for one on one conversations with our local police, fire and council office. Authorities who came and talked about their roles in a disaster included the local Fire Station #35 with Captain Tim Ramirez and his crew, LAPD Senior Lead Officer Lenny Davis, and Councilmember Ryu's field deputy Adam Miller. Ben Park who is developing the Map Your Neighborhood program with the City of Los Angeles also joined us.

Los Angeles is overdue for the **“inevitable earthquake”**. With all that has happened in the last few months it never hurts to be prepared and FHRA is working hard to prepare our community! If you are interested in organizing your block, please contact us at fhra@franklinhills.org. ■



Senior Lead Officer Lenny Davis tells participants the Police Department role during a disaster.

Neighborliness and the Small Lot Ordinance (No. 176354)

by Melinda Taylor

Let me begin this article with a disclaimer: I'm no expert on planning and zoning in Los Angeles, and what I'm writing is in no way a comprehensive article about housing in our neighborhood, it's just the story of what I learned recently by accident, and now want to share with you:

I was idly thumbing through emails one holiday Monday afternoon, and I happened to see one from the Los Feliz Neighborhood Council giving the agenda of their Tuesday evening meeting. I noticed an item about the Council giving final approval for a lot around the corner from my house to be divided into four "mini-lots". I sat up, and called one of my neighbors across the street from the address listed. Did she know anything about this? No, she hadn't heard about it. I called another neighbor. Did he know about it? Nope, hadn't heard anything.

Now my curiosity was piqued. What was this request about? I started looking into it, and this is what I found: Some entity of Los Angeles government – maybe Planning and Zoning, maybe something else- had created a new rule governing all lots zoned R-1.5, allowing each R-1.5 lot to be divided into four "mini lots", with four residences on it. The residences are required to each have two on-site parking spaces, and a driveway accessing these parking areas. There is a square foot limit to each housing unit, derived by a height limit on the buildings, and requirements for side yard set back (5'), and back property line set back (I think 8', but don't quote me on that). There is no set back required between the housing units themselves.

I filed this information in my mind, and it churned there for a few days. I've lived in the neighborhood for more than 20 years, and I did a bit of work to get our neighborhood downzoned from R-3 to R-1.5 long ago. I got out the Neighborhood map and looked at the zoning of my neighborhood, and saw that quite a lot of it is zoned R-1.5.

Coming home from work one evening soon afterwards, I saw a new For Sale sign on a house near me. I called the realtor to ask the size of the house and its cost. She told me the house was being sold as a tear down, and the asking price was \$1,100,000.

I puzzled over the idea that anyone would buy a lot in our neighborhood for a million dollars, knowing the costs of building a house. It made no sense to me until a light bulb went off in my head, and I guessed that what I had learned about the new "mini-lot" rules and the asking price of that tear down house were likely related to each other. When I asked a couple of real estate folks in the neighborhood if my hunch was true, they both said yes, and they both told me the same formula:

A developer buys a house on an R-1.5 lot for \$1 million, tears it down, builds 4 adjoined

Small Lot, Continued on Page 11...

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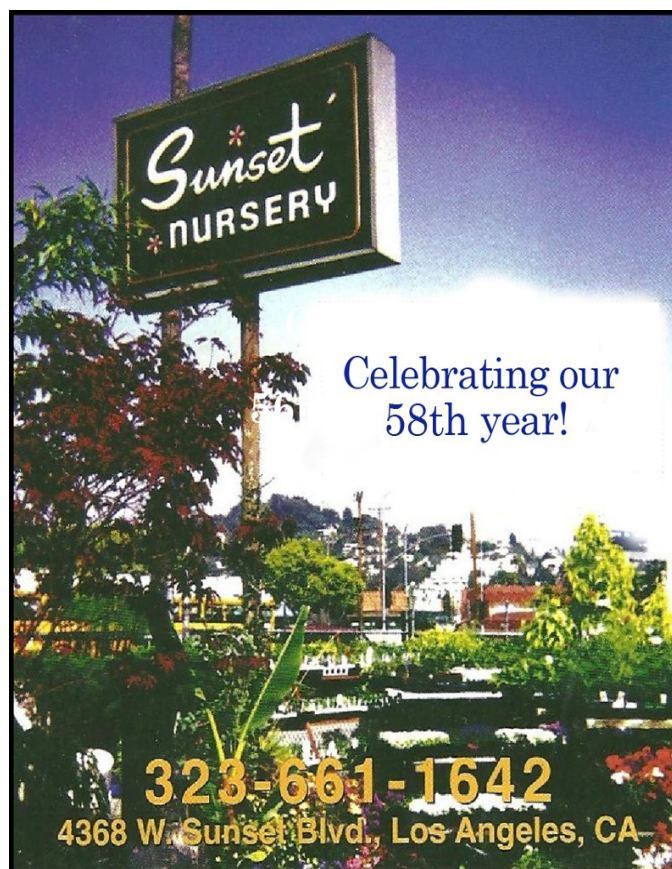
...Small Lot, Continued from Page 12

houses on that lot, and sells each of the four units for \$1 million each. Now I understood why houses in the neighborhood were selling for such high prices, even ones in poor condition. And, as a little side realization, I realized why I get so much junk mail from people saying they want to buy my house no matter what condition it is in. I realized that the look of the neighborhood and the density of my neighborhood is about to change. But more importantly, I realized that the people living in my neighborhood are also about to change.

I've lived in the same house here in the neighborhood for more than half my life, and I can state unequivocally that I love this neighborhood; I love living here. As well as being attached to my neighbors, I feel attached to the checkout people at Gelson's, everybody at Baller Hardware, and everybody at Sunset Nursery, Farfalla, Vermont Canyon Tennis Center, and Sunset Junction. I feel attached to the Mulholland Fountain at Los Feliz and Riverside, the back room décor at Little Dom's, the trees on Los Feliz Boulevard, P-22 in Griffith Park, and the LA River just down the bank from the golf course in Atwater Village. The list of all the people, places, geographies, trees, and wildlife I'm attached to in the neighborhood is too long to elaborate here. A long while ago, I spent a lot of time looking at real estate with the idea of moving to a bigger house, but in the end my husband and I just remodeled our house instead. We recognized, through our search, how deeply we are attached to the neighborhood. We didn't want to move away; we didn't want to break our connection with what has become the fabric of our lives.

Then I thought about the housing stock here, and what this new "mini-lot" rule would mean, and, like so many things, its meaning depends on who you are and your circumstances. If you are a developer, it's a good opportunity to make money. If you are a real estate agent, it's a new source of clientele. If you are the City, it's a good source of new tax revenue. But if you are a resident of the neighborhood, and you can't afford to buy the million-dollar residence that is replacing your modest duplex, or over-the-garage apartment, or small bungalow rental, you are leaving the neighborhood, likely for good.

In this Overview dedicated to "Neighborliness" I hope some of you readers will ask yourself the same things I'm asking myself: What should we do with this information? What's important? Who decides what's most important for us? Is this the decision that my neighborhood collectively would make? If it's not, why isn't my neighborhood's collective view a part of our City's decision making process, when the change in laws means a lot to our collective quality of life? Why is my Neighborhood Council not standing up against this? Who, of my elected representatives decided this was good for the neighborhood? Why are the least politically strong people in the neighborhood left to make their own way regarding this, due to laws that don't take their situation into account? Why am I learning of this change after it has already taken place? What can I do now besides wish all of my recently displaced neighbors and my soon-to-be displaced neighbors a peaceful and happy life in their new neighborhood? I'd like to suggest that we spend some time together to talk this through together before I let my neighbors go. ■



Our 2017 Annual Meeting...In Case You Missed It / Bruce Carroll

Outgoing FHRA President Tim Cowell opened the FHRA's 29th annual meeting by thanking Janet Campus, manager of The Prospect Studios for once again being our neighborly host. The meeting was moved up to April 29th from its traditional June timing to avoid hot weather, but you can't fool mother nature, as Cowell noted, "Today it's 90 degrees."

Outgoing Treasurer, Bruce Carroll gave his final financial report: "We stand well financially. When I took over the treasury in 1991 we had a little over \$1,000 in the bank...now we have over \$40,000."

Next on the agenda was the election of boardmembers. Unlike most past years we had four new candidates to replace retiring boardmembers. Steve Myers a Disney software engineer and 20 year resident has already upgraded the FranklinHills.org website. Alix Soubiran, founder of Princes & Crows, a mural company, wants to "help keep our hills charming, peaceful, beautiful and safe." Melinda Taylor, the noted landscape architect, who designed the Franklin Avenue median planting in 1995, is now working to spruce up the median. Karen Thompson, a public defender for about 30 years and Marshall High grad, wants to "help to improve our community." Two incumbent board members, Past President Chris Boutelle and Secretary Elizabeth Richardson rounded out the ballot and the meeting voted to make election of all six candidates unanimous.



The first guest speaker was Councilmember David Ryu (left) who has come out for FHRA sponsored area cleanups and said he would work with the LA School Board in hopes of settling the noise and light pollution problems that have been annoying neighbors surrounding King Middle School (see pages 3 & 20).

The meeting got important community safety advice from LAFD Capt. Rueben Navarro based at Station 35 on Hillhurst who attended with his whole staff (below). He talked about the fire earlier this year on Prospect Ave. that destroyed one house and caused some "heat damage" to neighboring houses. Although his territory goes from Santa Monica Blvd. to most of Griffith Park he said, "the area that worries me the most is Franklin Hills." That's because of parking on our narrow streets where maneuvering their 54 foot long fire truck is difficult. "If you think it's a bad spot don't park there." He warned against us rushing down the hill in a fire, noting that can block the roads and is what caused so many homes to be lost in the huge Oakland Hills fire. He also noted that "quite a few people smelled smoke, but no one called." Capt. Brian Bailey, LAFD training officer, put in a pitch for people to join the fire department. When asked if they do home inspections he offered, "if you have a concern we'll come out and look at anything you want. We're there for you."





LAPD Northeast Capt. Arturo Sandoval (to the right of SLO Lenny Davis in photo at left) thanked the attendees as “folks that are interested and care about their community, this is important.” Senior Lead Officer Lenny Davis, who was first on the scene when the Marshall High student jumped off the Shakespeare Bridge, said he “truly believes this individual would have died if it had not been for someone seeing something and reporting it. It literally did save his life.” He said the boy, who suffered a broken jaw and several broken bones, “is now doing much better.” When asked about package theft he said they are “overwhelmed with reports...It’s a tough thing to fight.”

He also thanked the FHRA and Shirley Mims for the Blue Ribbons that adorned the Shakespeare Bridge that recognizes police officers.

The meeting’s serious business was pleasantly interrupted as usual by prize drawings where attendees were rewarded with dinners at the Palermo Restaurant on Vermont, movie passes to Laemmle Theatres, FHRA T-shirts and other prizes.



FHRA Boardmember Carole Nese (left) and President Shirley Mims presented info and encouraged neighbors to hold meetings to organize Map Your Neighborhood meetings. Mims noted “We need to be there for ourselves” in an emergency.



Charley Mims (right) and David Brooks frustratingly reported on the ongoing problems with excessive noise and lights at King Middle School. They met in January 2017 with Principal Mark Naulls who blamed an old PA system that he says only works if the volume is high and it has to be on everywhere. By the April meeting FHRA had not heard back but was working with our Councilmember David Ryu. See page 20 for an update. Former FHRA Chairman Adam Weisman, who is a LILA School Boardmember, noted that when FHRA neighbors complained about noise at the school below the Shakespeare Bridge they replaced the bells with a light system to signal the students.



Kristen Andersen (left), co-chair of the FHRA’s Norman Harriton Community Garden, which is on the LILA campus, reported they have a waiting list of about 35 for the 24 plot garden, explaining “sometimes it could be a year or two before you get in.”

Another FHRA gardening project, the Franklin Ave. Median, was also discussed and Cowell explained the plans to renew the planting with drought tolerant plants and redo the broken irrigation system noting an estimated \$17,000 will be needed to fund the project.

And the FHRA’s third garden, the one underneath the Shakespeare Bridge at the end of Monon, is also being renewed. Shirley Mims explained that “the city is on board to repair the garden” as their trash trucks damaged the irrigation system. She vowed, “that’s my project, I started it and I’m going to see it finished.”

The finale of the meeting was the new board thanking the retiring boardmembers. Charley Mims explained “we occasionally have had boardmembers retire before but no one as distinguished as the fellow that’s going to be retiring after this meeting. Bruce is a shy guy so we got together to say a few things about how he’s helped the FHRA. Bruce is the face of the Franklin Hills, but you don’t see his face because he’s behind the scenes.” The boardmembers then each held a photo of Bruce in front of their face and read off some of the duties he fulfilled: Treasurer, Webmaster, Mail box minder, Membership administrator, Sound technician, Archivist, FHRA alerts whisperer, Overview proofreader, median sprinkler repair, T-shirt & Photo sales and storage Czar. Bruce then handed a symbolic torch to the new board. In exchange he got a beautiful glass

Annual Meeting, Continued on Page 21...

The Harmony of Gardening Among Community / Hannah Spencer

The Norm Harriton Community Garden in Franklin Hills strongly believes in the supportive atmosphere of community. Our intention as a community, as gardeners, and as friends is to create a space that is welcoming, supportive, and educational. We focus on the best practices that we can and continue to learn as new techniques emerge. As an organic garden, we don't use herbicides or pesticides. We encourage our gardeners to use non-GMO plants but understand that it's an individual's decision on their own plot. Some gardeners practice vegan composting, others don't. We celebrate every individual difference among our gardeners, but our project joins them together in the harmony of gardening. This is community. This is what brought together the Norm Harriton Community Garden. A place to belong, a place to relax, a place to learn.

If you are interested in participating in the Franklin Hills community garden activities, check out our facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/FranklinHillsCommunityGarden>) for more information on our public events. We have a wait list, but would love to welcome more Franklin Hills neighbors to our community. If you are interested in gardening a plot, please email our coordinator, Kristen, at garden@franklinhills.org. ■



Beauty and bounty (above); Happy gardeners (below).

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Strong Reasons Make Strong Actions / Shirley Mims

“Things won are done; joy’s soul lies in the doing” (Wm. Shakespeare). The Shakespeare Bridge Garden under the bridge has been one joy after another, year after year after year after year after... Ok, you get it, this project has required perseverance since it was conceived in 2002.

Once complete, alas once again, the garden will serve as a symbol of the community who will not tolerate graffiti, loitering, lewd acts, fires, and other illegal activity in our neighborhood. The garden will stand, at the end of a quiet cul de sac on Monon Street, for all who stroll to the site with their families and pets, and for everyone to enjoy a state of beauty and calm in an otherwise chaotic city.

This is the third year that I’ve said we’ll be ready for planting in the fall after the water system was damaged beyond repair and doomed the roses and other plants in the garden. Recent progress indicates that we will indeed be able to plant this fall, yes, THIS fall in 2017. By the time this article is published, I anticipate that we’ll be in the final preparations for the grand reopening celebration.

Many hands and volunteers have come and gone throughout the years. The latest landscape artist Bernie Grijalvic who painstakingly hand painted what plants will go where sadly passed away before being able to see the garden completed. Former Concilmember Tom LaBonge saw through the first and second iterations of the garden and helped to get the third one started. We

Shakespeare Garden, Continued on Page 19...



Charley Mims “inspects” progress for retaining wall.

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YouTube video tour: search “2020 Laughlin Park”.



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Franklin Hills Residents Association

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Website: www.franklinhills.org

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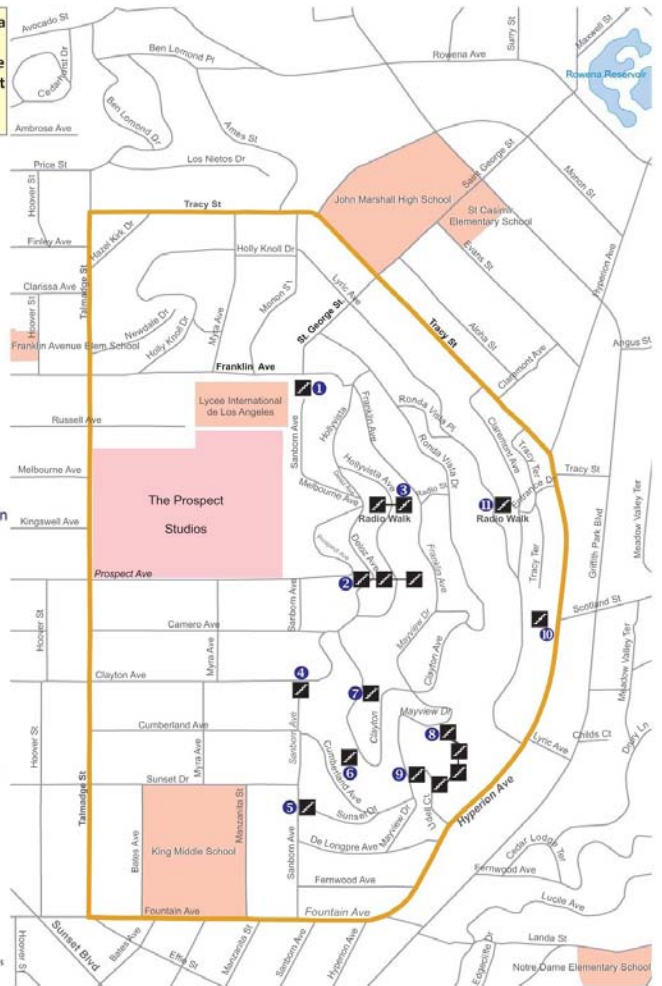
The Franklin Hills Community bordered by Talmadge, Tracy, Hyperion and Fountain is notable for its 14 public stairways. Originally built in the mid-1920's as a shortcut to get to trolley lines. Today they enable a delightful pedestrian exploration of our hills, and a great free workout!

The Sierra Club has devised a route covering all 14 stairways, which should take about 1-2 hours. It starts just east of the Shakespeare Bridge.

1. Down Sanborn from Franklin (↓1 stairway)
 2. Up Prospect (↑3 stairways)
 3. Down Radio Walk (↓2 stairways)
 4. Up Sanborn from Clayton (↑1 stairway)
 5. Up Sunset from Sanborn (↑1 stairway)
 6. Up Cumberland (↑1 stairway)
 7. Across Clayton-Clayton (→1 stairway)
 8. Down Mayview-Udell (↓1 stairway)
 9. Up Udell-Mayview (↑1 stairway)
 10. Up Hyperion-Lyric (↑1 stairway)
 11. Up Radio Walk-Lyric (↑1 stairway)
- Then walk northwest on Lyric back on St. George to complete the circuit.



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Editor Needed!

We are in need of an energetic volunteer who can collect and assemble articles and ads for the next Franklin Hills Overview. Publisher and Photoshop skills desired. Stipend available. To help, please contact FHRA@FranklinHills.org



Connect with us on Instagram! [@franklinhills](https://www.instagram.com/franklinhills)

Community Contacts

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e-mail.....	311@lacity.org
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Lost Animals.....	(888) 452-7381x2
Barking Dogs.....	(888) 452-7381x3
Building & Safety Violations.....	(888) 524-2845
Councilmember David E. Ryu: District 4	
Telephone	(213) 473-7004
Fax.....	(213) 473-2311
e-mail.....	david.ryu@lacity.org
Field Deputy Adam Miller	(323) 957-6415
e-mail	adam.miller@lacity.org
FHRA Voicemail.....	(323) 908-6078
FHRA e-mail.....	FHRA@franklinhills.org
Fire Department: Emergency	911
Non-Emergency.....	(213) 485-6185
Local Fire Stations serving the FHRA area	
Station 35 on Hillhurst.....	(213) 485-6235
Station 56 on Rowena.....	(213) 485-6256
Graffiti Removal.....	311
Homeless Services.....	211
LA County Info Line	211
LAUSD School Police	(213) 625-6631
Marshall High School - Main#	(323) 671-1400
King Middle School - Main#	(323) 644-6700
Los Feliz Public Library	(323) 913-4710
Parking Enforcement (DOT)	(213) 485-4184
Poison Control.....	(800) 222-1222
Police Department, Northeast Div.....	(323) 561-3211
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e-mail.....	26028@lapd.lacity.org
Sr. Lead Officer Nina Preciado	(213) 793-0762
e-mail.....	32128@lapd.lacity.org
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Noise Enforcement	(213) 996-1250
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- **Keep It:** Personal responsibility is the best prevention to safeguard personal property and to prevent becoming a victim.

Butt Trash #2 / Elizabeth Richardson

Introduction: In the last issue, we talked about cigarette butts being tossed/stubbed out on our streets. In this issue, we discuss a different kind of material being deposited on our streets.

Rover: (snuffling) Hey, wonder who left this here? Man, it's big and still fresh. Hmm. Great Dane likely. Fed pretty good stuff. Been around. Likely a visitor since I've never smelled them before on our regular walks.

Princess: (sniffing from a distance) Hmm. What are those things in it? Hope whoever left this behind was a visitor since we don't need their 'stuff' around.

Dog walker: "Rover! Princess! Leave it! Yuck!"

Angry neighbor: "Look at that! And someone drove over it! Who are these people that don't pick up after their dog?"

Veterinarian: "Unfortunately Rover's fecal sample tested positive for this particular parasite. Princess' looks OK. I'll write a prescription for you to give him with food for the next three days. Good thing he only picked up this type of thing. There are lots worse going around. Repeat the treatment in three weeks and then bring in another sample. Make sure to tell your dog walker to be careful to pick up his poop so that no other dogs or animals are infected. Oh, and by the way, don't dispose of it in the green waste barrel. That could infect the whole barrel and potentially the entire load which then must be taken to a landfill*. That'll be \$150 for the stool exams and today's visit and \$90 for the medicine. Have a good day...."

(Rainstorm...)



LA storm water toxicologist: "Let's see what we are testing today. Ah, a test tube of runoff from Franklin Hills. Wow, this slide is full of coliform bacteria. Most of them won't cause serious problems although there are a few that will. What else is here? Aha, a parasite egg! This one is a problem. Bet there's been an outbreak among dogs walking around that neighborhood."

Pet Guardian: (chatting with a friend) "Your dog too? It's been an absolute nightmare and it could have been a lot worse! Thank heavens, Rover's latest fecal exam came out clean."

(Looking down at Rover) "Now, would you please keep your nose to yourself!"

Rover: Hey, I'm a dog. That's what we do.

Editor's note: The names of the dogs were changed to protect their owners.

*<http://www.lastormwater.org/blog/2011/01/la-stormwater-promotes-good-pet-practices/> ■

...Airbnb, Continued from Page 7

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For more complete information on the Los Angeles City 2017 Home Sharing Ordinance Background & Frequently Asked Questions go to <http://franklinhills.org/Home%20Sharing%20FAQ.pdf>. ■

...Shakespeare Garden, Continued from Page 15

are on its third incarnation and, with the support of Councilmember David Ryu and especially the Bureau of Sanitation, hopefully the last.

This project means a lot to those of us who have participated with it. Those who help to support this garden in present days include Tim Cowell who lovingly took the torch from his predecessors Toby Leaman* and David Brooks on Monon to water and care for the heritage roses that will soon return to their original home and grace the retaining wall, and the managers and crew of the Bureau of Sanitation who have steadfastly stood by their word to repair the garden, even when the Mayor took them away from the project for so many months for another emergency and while having to wait for approval for the “dangerous” thorns of the rose bushes while the application for the re-adoption of the site was considered.

Delay after delay, after delay, we are finally here. The retaining wall is built. The water system is underway. The plants will be in by the time this is published – glorious iceberg roses, rosemary, draught tolerant ceanothis, manzanita, native grasses and even a few plants donated by neighbors.

The celebration will come. Please check the FHRA website at FranklinHills.org and join us. I look forward to sharing the joy of seeing this project through with each and every one of you. (*Name was corrected.) ■



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King Middle School Amps Up the Noise / Charley Mims



Mark Naulls, the Principal at King Middle School, promised that he would ask for a new public address system to be installed during the summer recess. Imagine neighbors' surprise when the new school year started and they were subject to even louder noises from King. Mr. Naulls has not responded to our inquiries about steps he could take to mitigate loud noises emanating from King. We have asked our City Councilman, David Ryu, to intervene to help neighbors with this problem. Councilman Ryu's field deputy, Adam Miller, is trying to set up a meeting with staff from the LAUSD Board along with LAPD Senior Lead Officer Lenny Davis and Gabrielle Taylor, the City Attorney's Neighborhood Prosecutor, to try to resolve this issue which has plagued neighbors for over a year now. ■

...Neighborliness, Continued from Page 3

Over time, though, I have gotten to know some of my neighbors and actually enjoy a few of them. We don't necessarily "chew the fat" for hours or play dominoes in our free time but we'll address one another with kindness, respect and civility. I even have a mysterious neighbor who kindly takes my trash to the curb on Wednesday nights when I forget to do so (which is often). To this day, I am not sure who it is, but this gesture is truly the definition of "neighborly". What we all have in common though, is a mutual love of our neighborhood. This is why it is particularly offensive when negative forces acting within this community are brought by individuals who do not reside here.

I have two examples and I am not sure which is more offending. One will take 100 years to repair and the other is causing a daily nuisance, all day long, 5 days a week.

The first situation involves the homeowner across the street from where I live and work cutting down the largest, most beautiful tree on the block. I specify "owner" because while his name is on the deed, he's never called this neighborhood home. He inherited what he considers an income property and felled the truly majestic hundred-year-old tree to make the view more appealing to potential renters.

The disappearance of this perfectly healthy tree changed the street completely and now, instead of deep green foliage, the people on our street can look down on the McDonalds and the Hospital while the house remains unoccupied nearly a year later. The homeowner lives somewhere on the Westside and rarely ventures to our neighborhood.

The other example is the loud amplified announcements continuing to emanate from Thomas Star King Middle School. How is this acceptable?

The noise starts at 8AM sharp with the recorded sound of a bugle and the Pledge of Allegiance followed by loud muffled announcements that last up to eight minutes. Throughout the day, whistles sound every 45 minutes until 3pm.

I live 400 feet from the school and have to hang-up the phone when the announcements and bugle sounds. A group of neighbors and I have kindly asked the principal to please lower the volume but to no avail. Are there not speakers in the classrooms? Why must the announcements to the "King Lions" be broadcast to the street?

We made a petition that was signed by many and sent to Councilman Ryu's office last November and also tried to meet with the school's Principal but were refused. These days, the announcements are louder than ever. It sounds like a military prison camp is operating here. I used to live across the street from Sadam Hussein's brother and he was much more respectful. Should we have brought baskets of baked cookies?

As a community, we have a responsibility to one another. We may not know all of our neighbors, but the Franklin Hills are a special place we've all chosen to make our home. Let's not compromise that for the individuals simply looking to profit on the real estate or those who don't care about the quality of life here. ■



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...Annual Meeting, Continued from Page 13



sculpture and lots of good wishes. He wished all, “Good luck in the future” adding, “it’s been a pleasure to serve and it will be a pleasure not to have all these things to do everyday.”

Retiring Boardmember George Grace was also honored with Charley Mims noting: “George got our attention focused not only on domestic animals but wild critters in our neighborhood. George is the one who got the surveys going in Griffith Park to determine what kind of flora and fauna we have up there. Nobody had ever done that for 100 years. George is the one who wrote a fairly substantial check to get that going. George we want to give you a little card to thank you for your service to the neighborhood.” Mims also thanked outgoing FHRA President Tim Cowell for his leadership, “everybody appreciates what you have done.” Cowell promised, “you’ll see me at all the cleanups and all the opportunities to come out and help the neighborhood.” A card was also signed by all the board members for outgoing board member Joseph Tannous who has helped to rejuvenate Hyperion Ave. by rehabilitating several historic houses and hosting clean ups.

The meeting ended with a question from a Talmadge resident urging The Prospect Studios to do more to keep the area trash free. Studio manager Janet Campus responded, “We are trying to step-up our efforts to cleanup the trash around the neighborhood,” and told the meeting, “Feel free to call me if you have any concerns.” Finally Boardmember Eric Frase put in a reminder about the availability of Welcome Kits for new Franklin Hills residents. ■

COMMUNITY MATTERS

In this issue we are introducing a new section for neighbors to share personal information about cherished loved ones and tell personal stories from around the community.

Phil Lee, Friend of the Community / *Leslie Rowan*



Last December, my husband, and father of our two 16 year old children passed away from pancreatic cancer. He was our children's loving father and my perfect soul mate. My husband built our house here in Franklin Hills in 1995. In his initial years of living here, he was very active in the community, until his work and family required more devoted hours of his time. For the majority of our time here we have had a dog or two with which we have walked Franklin Hills daily. He met so many people on his walks, that it was hard to keep track of. His openness and interest in others made him very magnetic. When we first moved in, I would joke with him about how he had invited the whole hill over for coffee.

When we had children, there was consideration of moving to an area in which we would have more yard space for the kids to play, but my husband and I continually rejected that idea thinking this is a community in which we belong.

Our family adjustment without him is quite challenging for the kids and myself. We have been working hard on methods of healing. We hiked in Machu Picchu to bury his remains, our kind neighbors set up a Buddhist Ceremony honoring him and most recently, we have planted a tree to remember him by. Honoring him in these ways helps us move forward.

As we continue to walk the hills with our dog, it may be difficult to repeat the story of his loss when we run into people who knew him, however the recognition of his loss is part of our healing process. Without this recognition, it is as if his existence was not a significant part of our neighborhood and creates a feeling of isolation. We are all a part of a community. A village that my late husband and I chose to live, a place that we chose to raise our twins.

Our family continues to walk the Franklin Hills with our dog Ginger wearing the spirit of our beloved Phil Lee and we invite you to be a part of our healing process. ■

Farewell to a Best Friend / *Carole Nese*

Many of you have seen her walking the streets of the Franklin Hills. I called her the happiest dog of the neighborhood and the friendliest German Shepard I ever owned. She loved people, other dogs, little ones in particular and she especially loved her walks, twice a day rain or shine. More neighbors remembered her name before mine.

She had her debut in the Overview three years ago when she wound up wandering the streets of St. George only to find herself in the Lacy Street Animal Shelter. She had lost her collar and a good Samaritan drove her there. For a few hours my little three year old niece, several neighbors and I searched for her frantically until we got a call from her shelter (thanks to her chip) and she was "finally rescued."

"Poppy" was my first shelter dog and she was exceptionally grateful. She felt lucky everyday but in reality I was the lucky one, having had her by my side for over fourteen and a half years. ■





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