



OVERVIEW

FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Issue 56

EXPRESSING GRATITUDE

Fall/Winter 2018



President's Message



■ Shirley Mims

We have a lot to be thankful for in the Franklin Hills – great neighbors, good friends, fantastic views, the Franklin Hills Residents Association (FHRA), and more. This issue is themed “gratitude.” Inside, you will find

lots of gratitude expressed by the authors! We are blessed to have our first responders, Fire Stations 35 and 56, and, LAPD Senior Lead Officers Lenny Davis and Nina Preciado. They heroically deal with a lot of difficult situations from the Trader Joe’s tragedy, abandoned properties and party houses to putting out fires, rescuing people and dealing with homeless complaints. I am privileged to serve as co-chair of the Northeast Area Community Police Advisory Board along with Captain Arturo Sandoval, so we have direct access to our local police commander. In its 30th year, FHRA has a lot of support from city agencies and organizations such as Councilmember David Ryu who is helping with the Shakespeare Bridge Garden and stairway cleanups; the Los Feliz branch library with their programs and services; Lycée International de

Los Angeles (LILA), who hosted the FHRA annual meeting this year and provides space for our Norman Harriton Community Garden; and of course, the police and fire departments.

The energy of the FHRA board and volunteers is awesome. We are fortunate to have a diverse group of volunteer neighbors who are helping to take the FHRA forward for new generations with a new website, creative publicity ideas and by chipping in to handle the regular business. I am especially grateful for our new designer, Bailey Jones, who stepped up to help out with the *Overview*. She is a neighbor and volunteered to help organize the issue and created the layout.

What are you grateful for? Many volunteers and residents answer this question as you read on. I am grateful for my neighbors, many of whom are friends. I am also thankful for the safety preparations that the FHRA has done – Map Your Neighborhood, Neighborhood Watch, FHRAlerts, etc. Should a disaster or crime occur, on many of our streets, neighbors have organized and trained to respond and help one another. To sign up and get more involved, contact the FHRA at fhra@franklinhills.org.

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We hope you enjoy the *Overview*. It is delivered by resident volunteers to every doorstep in the Franklin Hills area twice a year. We appreciate those who pay for their membership. Membership helps to fund the projects you will read about in this edition as well as many other ongoing projects. Please consider joining, the membership form is on page 23. We will be grateful!

The Overview is 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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Garden Restoration

■ Susie Kim Synder

The long awaited restoration of the garden under the historic Shakespeare Bridge is finally complete. The neighbors and surrounding community are grateful and excited to be able to walk to the end of Monon Street and see what hard work, dedication and working together can accomplish. The garden is a beautiful visualization of community and gratitude. According to the Cambridge Dictionary gratitude is defined as: “a strong feeling of appreciation to someone or something for what that person has done to help”. We neighbors on Monon Street are very grateful for each and every person that helped to make sure the garden was restored and beautified.

We know so many people worked very hard for a long time, together to make sure it was finished. Having the garden completed aesthetically makes a difference for obvious reasons. It also reminds all that walk down to the dead end of the street of the historical presence of the Shakespeare Bridge. The retaining wall and signage are also appreciated by the neighbors that live on Monon Street. The re-dedication party in June was a celebration of not only the garden but also of gratitude.

This community was able to be together under the bridge that day to share with one another the excitement of the new garden and to talk about how incredibly grateful we all are that it was finally completed. We are forever indebted to everyone who listened to our community’s requests to keep the garden beautiful and safe.

Sitting at the end of our street that day was a very delightful and exciting experience. There was music and food with a lot of smiles and laughter. Some of us were so grateful we didn't want to leave. We stayed long after the music and party was over. We are grateful and can't wait for the next celebration in our community.



Chris Boutelle, Mick Brown and Tom Hofstra count 23 bags of green waste that were cleared from the garden and under the bridge. Councilmember David Ryu's office graciously hauled them away for us.



Jane Cantillon makes a cameo singing appearance with Old Timey 1920s duo Newman and Fletcher.

Franklin Hills Stair Clean Up

Join us for coffee, community...and sweeping!

Saturday, November 17th 9am-11am

- * Meet at top of Radio Walk stairs (at Franklin)
- * Wear comfortable clothes & shoes
- * All welcome, students receive community service credit
- * Additional details at franklinhills.org
- * Brooms, rakes & bags provided
- * Additional brooms appreciated!



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Growing Gratitude Under the Shakespeare Bridge

■ David Ryu

Councilmember for the 4th District

I have so much to be grateful for in my life. Good friends, a wonderful team to work with every day, and a district full of iconic locations and wonderful communities I get to work with and learn from. I am also grateful to take the time to reflect on gratitude itself. So often, in our busy lives, we don't pause to look at how far we've come, all the things we have accomplished, and how lucky we are to be alive and well in the City of Angels.

When you go from being a low-income immigrant kid to a City Councilmember, you find a lot of things for which you can be grateful. But time and time again, serving the communities of Council District Four, I find myself most grateful for the people who work so hard to improve their neighborhoods.

Council District Four is full of unique neighborhoods with distinct characters and vibrant culture. This is no accident, it's the work of communities coming together to preserve their cherished spots and make their neighborhood shine that make this such a wonderful place to live.

Nowhere is this more true than in Franklin Hills. This charming Los Feliz enclave is filled with unique homes, beautiful gardens, and Los Angeles history. People across the City know about the historic Shakespeare Bridge and the beautiful green space below, but few know it is the Franklin Hills Residents Association that make this such a beautiful and historic icon of our city.

This summer, while many were on vacation or enjoying time off of school, the Franklin Hills Residents Association was hard at work cleaning

up the Shakespeare Bridge Garden, filling 23 bags of debris and picking up fallen palm fronds. I was honored to join the association to help clean up this beautiful spot, and I was blown away by the passion and focus of the volunteers, giving their time and energy to make this spot the pride of Los Angeles.

But it doesn't just stop with a clean-up. The FHRA has been working to improve the garden, plant new flowers, and make this a shared space of respite and beauty for the neighborhood. And that's not just at the Shakespeare Bridge. On so many other community improvements, the FHRA is there to beautify the streets, serve the community, and make this one of the best neighborhoods in the city.

When the Shakespeare Bridge was built 92 years ago, it was a passion project - an act of creativity, character, and love for the neighborhood, which rolled out like an Italian countryside below. It only remains because of the passion, creativity and character of those who live there to this day.

The builders of the bridge had no idea of the residents to come who would make it shine. They couldn't imagine the work ahead in repair, the clean-ups, or the efforts to preserve the Shakespeare Bridge garden below. But they built it anyway with the faith that the neighbors would protect it, would work to make it beautiful, and share in their love and passion for the community.

When you think of the work it took to build this bridge, and the generations of Franklin Hills residents to keep it and the space around it beautiful, one is overwhelmed with a sense of gratitude - and a little hope - that beauty, history and community can still be found in rich supply.

Our Heroes on Hillhurst



The firefighters of Fire Station 35 take a moment to pause for a family photo. Photograph by Curt Biesterfeld.

■ Yvonne Troxclair

We've all driven past the fire station on Hillhurst. Perhaps we've stopped off at Christmas time to drop off toy donations or attended a pancake breakfast. But how often do we think about the actual fire fighters themselves . . . what they do for us, what they sacrifice and the fact that on any given day they might be risking their lives for us?

So, what is life like for these local heroes? And what can we do to show our gratitude? I spent some time with the brave men at Fire Station 35 and I learned that there is nothing they don't do for our community. Cat stuck in a tree, panic attack,

car accident, funny smell in your house? They're there. And God forbid, your house is actually on fire, they're there. And they're on their way in 60 seconds. From the time they get the call, they're dressed, on the truck and out the door . . . because every second counts.

Time especially counts when it comes to protecting our beloved Griffith Park. Fires in the park are common and they're there within minutes! Can you even picture living in the Franklin Hills without the amazing views of the Observatory? I think we all remember how bad that fire was just over ten years ago, but as always, these guys saved the day!

This year has been especially bad in terms of fires and Fire Station 35 is one of the few to boast a unique state-owned truck that has special capabilities and is frequently sent to major disasters across California. While a typical shift is 24 hours, on these missions they can be gone for weeks, working day in and day out.

I learned they see themselves as a family. They work together, workout together, and cook together. You've probably seen these guys at the grocery store buying a whole lot of food and maybe assumed our tax dollars pay for it . . . guess what? They don't. These brave men, who are willing to risk their lives on a daily basis for us, pay for and cook all their own meals. They also chip in money to buy basics . . . everything from toiletries to televisions. Very little is provided or replaced by the city.

I think one of the things that surprised me the most was that these guys don't all live in the neighborhood. Some live as far away as Temecula and San Diego and might commute for almost two hours. Imagine commuting that long and then working a 24-hour shift! Why would someone who lives so far away want to work at this station? Because they are one of the best in the state! Regardless of where they live, they view this neighborhood as their own.

It was awesome getting to know these very brave, kind men. Talking to them made me realize how similar their sacrifice is to our military and again reminded me how important it is to show them that they are appreciated. I invite you to find a way to thank our firefighters. Stop by and get to know them, they'd love to meet you! Bring the kids for a special experience including a souvenir hat! Maybe next time you see them at Coffee Bean, it's your treat. Or if you're baking some cookies, maybe make an extra batch for them. I think they'd like that. And if you'd like to contribute in a more concrete way you can donate to supportlafd.org and earmark your donation for Fire Station 35. There are lots of ways to show Fire Station 35 some love. Let's start today.

For more fun photos from Fire Station 35, visit franklinhills.org.

Once in a Blue Moon...



Once-in-a-blue-moon opportunity for investors or owner-users: a 1930s duplex with great curb appeal on a C4-1D commercial-zoned flat lot adjacent to commercial properties on busy Hillhurst Avenue. Currently used as offices; contact agent for disclosures. Revert to two townhouse-style, side-by-side duplexes for cashflow or redevelop the site. Tenant-occupied; shown with accepted offer or possibly otherwise, subject to tenant consent. Please do not disturb tenants. Two double garages in rear converted to storage/office space. Additional uncovered, off-street, gated parking in rear.



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Bow Wow Wow. And Now, Meow



Lisa and sweet Sandy



Bandit poses with his proud parents

■ Yvonne Troxclair

2018 went to the dogs! The FHRA's first annual Bow Wow Wow contest, sponsored by Cats and Dogs, was a big hit. We knew our neighborhood loved dogs, but we never guessed over 50 of our neighbors would enter our first ever fun photo contest!

We fell in love with all of our entries, big and small, young and old. Some of our favorites were Olive, Beanie, Ollie, Stanley and Samba!

If you have a dog, or any pet, then you know how wonderful the unconditional love of a pet is, but this is especially true of rescued pets. Beanie, who was the very first dog to enter, was rescued, as was Ollie. Stanley's story was very heart-warming. He was bred to fight dogs but he refused and eventually was rescued by his Franklin Hills moms, Esther and Sandra. Samba is another lucky Franklin Hills rescue who loves walking the Franklin Hills stairs, even though he has only three legs.

Like all rescues, these are some grateful dogs.

It was hard to pick just two winners, but the FHRA board and the team at Cats and Dogs voted, and the \$25 first prize gift cards went to Sandy and Bandit, and boy were their parents proud!

If you entered and didn't win, it wasn't because your dog wasn't totally awesome, because all dogs are and we hope you'll enter again next year. And if you didn't enter this year, please do next year. Now that you've had a chance to get to know these dogs and their stories on our website, we hope you'll say hello to your neighbors and their terrific dogs when you're out for a walk in our beautiful neighborhood!

And no, we haven't forgotten you awesome Franklin Hills cat lovers. Get ready to enter your purrfect cat in our newest contest . . . the Check Meow-T Cat Contest!

Go to franklinhills.org/catcontest to enter now! Winners will be announced in December.

Graffiti Cleanup



LABT staff removes stickers and graffiti from signs at the west end of the Shakespeare Bridge.

■ Shirley Mims

I was walking across the bridge one day, on a lovely morning in May. I was taken by surprise by a group of allies who were painting out graffiti on the bridge. I had seen this graffiti a couple days earlier and remembered it as I crossed the bridge, thinking, "darn, I should have brought my paint can". It was such a delight that the Los Angeles Beautification Team (LABT) staff were there and had just finished painting it out!

The friendly staff stopped and talked with me as they cleaned off stickers and spray paint on other signs. They shared with me that you can call LABT for help with cleaning up graffiti you see on public property. The number for them is 323-962-2163.

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Annual Meeting In Review



Mia Trachinger, Kristen Andersen and Shirley Mims at the Norman Harriton Community Garden tour.

■ Shirley Mims

This year's annual meeting in April was packed as usual with first hand info from our City Councilmember, Neighborhood Prosecutor, Police and Fire Departments, Animal Services, Marshall High School, Neighborhood Council and the community garden. We were also fortunate to have Bruce Carroll join us. While he retired a year ago, he was happy to return and helped to document the meeting. You might have talked with him while he was outside showing the display of historic photographs that he has collected over the years.

Lycée International de Los Angeles (LILA),

graciously hosted once again and kicked off the meeting with an introduction to their campus. Head of School Michael Maniska provided an overview and update on campus growth and activities citing their newest location for preschool and pre-kindergarten students on the St. Casimir Church grounds on St. George. The Franklin Hills campus has been in existence for 25 years and is referred to as a "peaceful haven".

Many senior staff were present including Campus Director Nordine Bouriche, Facilities Director Doug Maxwell, Board member and Franklin Hills neighbor Jean Luc De Fonte, and CFO John Flick. We also appreciate Guillaume Kronus for his help setting



Former long time FHRA board member Bruce Carroll sets up (above) and demonstrates (below) his historic photographs



up for the meeting and making sure everything ran smoothly. All the staff stayed through the event and were available for questions and conversations with the members.

Neighborhood Prosecutor Gabrielle Taylor and Community Resource Specialist Samuel Lazalde spoke about their role with the City Attorney's office. Their office helps with social issues such as gang intervention, tree trimming problems, and abandoned houses. The Franklin Hills does not experience much in the way of gang problems but it does have a share of abandoned properties (empty homes). Ms. Taylor helps FHRA work with the impacted neighbors to contact the property owner

and clean up the affected areas then revitalizing the homes with new neighbors.

Councilmember David Ryu talked about many areas his office is addressing such as party houses, concrete street repair and Airbnb restrictions. The Councilmember encouraged residents to get engaged. It is because of FHRA's strong community activism that much support from City Officials is given to our neighborhood. Field Deputy Rachel Fox was presented with an FHRA t-shirt. Ms. Fox regularly attends FHRA events and works with our organization on projects.

Senior Lead Officer Lenny Davis invited residents to hold a coffee with him and neighbors. He also made a pitch for Neighborhood Watch. The heated issue of cars rolling through stop signs at Franklin and St. George was brought up and Officer Davis reminded us that most of the time when he cites a speeder or stop sign runner it is one of our neighbors! Be safe out there and look after one another.

Welcome kits are available for new neighbors.

Continued on page 18

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A Letter From Lenny



■ Officer Lenny Davis

It's fall already! Amazing how fast this year has passed. It has been a crazy, busy year so far and a lot has happened. But through all of it, I would like to take the time to express my gratitude not only to my department, but to the community as well.

We are all aware of the tragic incident that occurred in July at the Trader Joe's that claimed the life of Melyda Corado. I knew her personally and our community as a whole will miss her. What amazed me both during and after the event, was how supportive the community was not only to LAPD, but to each other. During the incident, strangers approached officers and offered water and use of restrooms. After the heart-breaking event, I saw people hugging and offering their sympathy to each other. Local churches and businesses opened their doors to the community and included police officers as well. The gratitude from all of LAPD cannot be expressed enough.

And speaking of gratitude, we had our 1st BBQ With The Cops in August in Chevy Chase park, thanks to the hard work by Shirley Mims and the rest of the Community Police Advisory Board. It

Carole Nese spoke to our Senior Lead Officer, Lenny Davis, about NextDoor. Here's what he had to say:

"NextDoor is a social media platform for people to use and share information. Everything from letting people know about a package theft to finding a plumber.

"However, letting people know about suspicious activity on NextDoor is NOT the same as reporting it to the police.

"The way NextDoor is set up, it cannot be

was a chance for the community to come and meet police officers without any speeches, agendas or tickets! We cooked (and burned a few) hot dogs, had city resources available and great conversation. We are looking forward to another one which will probably occur in the beginning of next year.

Finally, I would like to mention our Christmas Toy Drive this year. With Toys R Us closing and other major sponsors moving on, our supply of toys that we give out at Christmas is extremely small this year. In the past we have given out approximately 600 toys to needy children in our community. This year I am trying not only to match that, but trying to reach 1,000 toys. We are trying to raise \$20,000 this year in either money or toys. If you would like to help, please donate at gofundme.com/lapd-northeast-blend-toy-drive or bring a new unwrapped toy for a 5-12-year-old to the station. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. See page 15 for my info.

We should all be grateful for living in such a great community. Our violent crime is extremely low and our property crime can continue to decline if we continue to look out for each other. I love patrolling your neighborhoods and meeting so many people that really do keep an eye out for our neighbors. Keep up the great work Franklin Hills!

monitored by the police. The program is broken down into individual areas, so people in Franklin Hills are not posting to their entire neighborhood. In Northeast Division, we have over 42,000 people signed up in NextDoor in over 40 areas. If LAPD posts something, then we can ONLY see the replies to that specific post, nothing else!

"People can still private message their Senior Lead Officer (or email them directly) but more importantly, if they see something, they need to say something by either calling the non-emergency number at Northeast Area Police (877.275.5279) or of course if it's an emergency, 911."

Gardening Gives Back



Harvest from the Norman Harriton Community Garden

■ Tiffany Judkins

I believe the garden roots me to the earth. Being in the dirt, working the tiller, and the spade, sifting the clumps of cemented clay, and coming home exhausted is so satisfying. The garden has added another layer to my life in a way that's substantive, quiet, meditative, beautiful, raw and full of trial and error. I'm from Chicago, who knew that I would feel so at home digging in the dirt?

Nature is a wonder. I won't dare say that I never appreciated nature prior to gardening. I am in awe of nature large and small, but this is personal—nature made personal. I'm grateful that I can assist the growth of weaving vines, of pungent herbs, and prickly stems.

Yet, having my four small watermelons abducted

so stealthily really had me bothered a few weeks back—as all my garden mates know—and even after I was warned not to get attached to the melons. Days later, I returned to find carrots protruding ripe for picking. Well, I can't stay mad. The garden gives.

The garden sets the example, and we follow. My garden peers share soil tips, as well as purple bean seeds, alfalfa, sourdough starter, and neighborhood news. I imagine my foray into gardening quite different if I'd started in isolation.

Passing conversations with my garden mates are gems. We connect over the strange animal stool curiously positioned onto my blue gardening gloves that I leave in the Wally Gro pocket. We compare the number of midge bites all over our legs after the last garden visit—that's the new stealth mosquito. The Milkweed bequeathed to me has Monarchs hovering all around. Thanks Lauren.

Then there is the weeding, the incessant weeding even has its merits. I see it as a metaphor for my thoughts—the physical version of keeping negative thoughts at bay. Regular maintenance keeps me clear, I mean the garden. I keep it manageable by working chunks of the plot and meditating. The garden grows at once effortlessly and with lots of care. Most of the time I don't realize its progress.

And, all of a sudden, it's right in your face! I'd forgotten that I planted that, I think. "Look at it go!," I scream. It's delicious, I smile. I am grateful to this garden experience for teaching me more about myself.

"Gardening is not outcome-oriented. A successful harvest is not the end of a gardener's existence, but only a phase of it. As any gardener knows, the vitality of a garden does not end with a harvest. It simply takes another form."

- James P. Cause

Median Help

The Franklin Avenue Median island is the gateway to Franklin Hills. Over 25 years ago the FHRA teamed with the city to transform the asphalt laden median island of Franklin Ave. into the beautiful drought tolerant California Native garden that you see today.



If you are able to help, please contact fhra@franklinhills.org. Donations can be made at franklinhills.org.

Community Contacts

City Services	311; 311@lacity.org
Hours M-F	7 am - 7 pm
Hours Sat-Sun	8:30 am - 4:45 pm
Animal Services	(888) 452-7381
Sanitation (Dead Animals)	x2
Lost Animals	x2
Barking Dogs	x3
Building & Safety Violations	(213) 473-3231
Councilmember David Ryu	(213) 473-7004
Email	david.ryu@lacity.org
Fax	(213) 473-2311
Field Deputy Rachel Fox	(323) 957-6415
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FRANKLIN HILLS STAIRWAYS

Large format print of the Franklin Hills Stairways map signed & numbered by the artist Tom Lamb offered to every client.

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Fire Dept. Non Emergency	(213) 485-6185
Fire Station 35, 1601 Hillhurst	(213) 485-6235
Fire Station 56, 2759 Rowena	(213) 485-6256
Graffiti Removal	311
Homeless Services	211
LA County Info Line	211
LAUSD School Police	(213) 625-6631
Marshall High School	(323) 671-1400
King Middle School	(323) 644-6700
Los Feliz Public Library	(323) 913-4710
Lycée International (LILA)	(323) 665-4526
Email	losfeliz@lilaschool.com
Mayor Eric Garcetti	
Central Area Rep Angie Aramayo	(213) 978-0430
Email	angie.aramayo@lacity.org
Neighborhood Prosecutor Gabrielle Taylor	(213) 978-2230 or (323) 561-3403
Email	gabrielle.taylor@lacity.org
Parking Enforcement (DOT)	(213) 485-4184
Poison Control	(800) 222-1222
Police Dept., NE Division	(323) 561-3211
Sr. Lead Officer Davis	(213) 793-0763
Email	26028@lapd.lacity.org
Sr. Lead Ofcr Nina Preciado	(213) 793-0762
Email	32128@lapd.lacity.org
Non-Emergency	(877) ASK-LAPD or (877) 275-5273
Gang Problems	(323) 561-3335
Noise Enforcement	(213) 996-1251
Prospect Studios	
Janet Campus-Prod. Svc	(323) 671-4022
Noise and Complaints	(323) 671-4554
Security Operations	(818) 560-1520
Rape Hotline	(310) 392-8381
Restraining Orders	www.lapdonline.org
Sanitation Bin Replacement	(800) 773-2489 x1
Sanitation Bulky Item Removal	(800) 773-2489 x1
Street Services	(800) 996-2489

The FHRA promotes a sense of community by bringing neighbors together to help create a safe and vibrant neighborhood for all!

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Why Get Involved?

■ Alix Soubiran

There are many reasons why you should get involved in your neighborhood. The most obvious reason is that it is where you live. So if you picked this neighborhood of all places, it is because you must have felt a special connection and pictured a happy life here, the same way your neighbors did. And that is something we all share. So, wouldn't it be nice if we all nourished this little piece of hill in Los Angeles, that we call home, with our love and care?

I realized that wishing and worrying about the future of our neighborhood wasn't helping; so instead, I decided to be part of that awesome club of people who step up and get involved instead of relying on others to do the job for them.

I became a Board member of the Franklin Hills Residents Association a little less than two years ago. I'm not saying everyone should do the same thing (we don't have enough seats for all of you anyway), but if you too feel that same itch, there are many wonderful ways to be involved.

For example, if you have the fiber of a detective, you can organize a neighborhood watch on your block or call the police when you see people who have no business in the neighborhood, loitering around.

The green thumbs will be warmly greeted if they want to volunteer to help in taking care of the median by the Shakespeare Bridge. Families looking for outdoor activities can help with cleaning the public stairs. So can individuals looking to meet new neighbors and make new friends.

Athletic neighbors can help by distributing the *Overview*. And if you are too busy to actually help onsite, your financial contribution is great and will help us tackle new projects.

It really feels good to give back and feel like you are part of a community, especially in a large city like Los Angeles. It is important to be involved in some way to own our future and maintain the quality of life and charm that brought you here in the first place.

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Michael Martin

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Community Matters:

Living in a Great Neighborhood With Cars, People and Pets

■ Carole Nese

We live in a great, small, older residential community that is also integrated with public schools, narrow streets, lots of people and building expansion. Our community was never meant to handle this world of unending traffic, congestion and cars. City planners of the early 1920s and 30s could never imagine a 21st century of so many solo drivers and a vastly growing population.

Auto navigation assistance helps us maneuver through traffic and apps help us plough through endless streaming lines of jammed cars. The suggested routes of these navigation devices often guide drivers onto small, hilly, narrow winding neighborhood streets with no sidewalks and barely enough parking for cars on one side. These snake-like roadways are the kind that make up much of Franklin Hills, Los Feliz, Silver Lake and the surrounding areas. Besides cars and trucks, the streets accommodate a variety of vehicles: bicycles, scooters, motorcycles and emergency vehicles along with children, adults and pets. This combination can make for hazardous situations.

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Even the seemingly straight through thoroughfares are seriously over crowded especially during heavy traffic times. Two lane residential St. George St. has become an alternate to impacted Los Feliz Blvd., especially in the evening and Rowena and Hyperion are no better. The traffic can be bumper to bumper starting from Franklin at Western. When turning onto St. George from Franklin off of the Shakespeare Bridge, it's often solid cars both ways.

Our neighborhood is very desirable, more and more people want to live here. But here we are with the traffic and we live with it, assuming it will all work out.

Looking to a future of increased population and traffic, are there solutions? Are we hoping that someone will solve the problem? Maybe that someone should be us.

We welcome any comments, suggestions or problem solving ideas from you, our *Overview* readers, who are most at risk for a potential mishap. Please send us your feedback! You can reach me at fhra@franklinhills.org.



Wildlife Control Officer Hoang Dinh (center) with FHRA board members Elizabeth Richardson (left) and Alix Soubiran (right)

FHRA Secretary Elizabeth Richardson passed out several kits filled with information about the community including the FHRA membership form, Franklin Hills *Overviews*, and community resources from the library to Griffith Park and more. If you have a new neighbor, contact fhra@franklinhills.org for a welcome kit. We will deliver it to you and even go to your neighbor's door with you.

Prizes were given for a dinner for two at Palermo Restaurant, movie tickets at Laemmle Theatres, and FHRA t-shirts.

Fire Department Captain Andrew Ruiz from Fire Station 35 on Hillhurst reminded residents to keep medical info on their fridge as that is where most emergency personnel look first. He also reminded the audience about the importance of keeping your smoke detectors plugged in and turned on and cited examples of how doing this saved people's lives.

FHRA board member Steve Myers gave a brief presentation and showed how easy it is to sign up online for membership and where to look for upcoming events on the new FHRA website that he designed.

We were fortunate to have City Wildlife Control Officer Hoang Dinh. He was very enthusiastic and passionate about coexisting with wildlife in our urban neighborhoods. He also advised us to



Joel Rochlin (left) with Senior Lead Officers Lenny Davis and Gina Paialii. Photo by Charley Mims

keep brush clearance current, not only for fires, but to prevent denning of skunks and coyotes. Unfortunately, due to his Department's operational needs, Officer Dinh was reassigned shortly after the annual meeting to another District.

Wildlife questions and/or concerns are now handled locally by our nearest Animal Shelter at 3201 Lacy St., LA 90031, phone 213-485-5767. For any emergency you should call 9-1-1. You can also visit laanimalservices.com/wildlife for more detailed information regarding Wildlife. Officer Dinh also advises to never feed wildlife (this will only set them up for failure and unfair villainization), and to closely supervise your pets and family when outdoors.

John Marshall High School Principal Dr. Gary Garcia spoke next. The audience gave him congratulations on winning city championships in football and tennis. Dr. Garcia reported that the school presently has 2,400 students with 60 percent from south of Sunset Blvd. If you notice truancy, he welcomes you to contact the school police at 213-625-6631 or to email him directly at gary.p.garcia@lausd.net. He also warned that teenagers who go door to door claiming to promote high school fundraising are part of a scam and to not support this activity.

Los Feliz Neighborhood Council (LFNC) president Luke Klipp gave a succinct overview of the current
Continued on page 20

Gratitude for Neighbors

■ Carole Nese

Many residents in our community express gratitude for living in such a wonderful, lovely and safe area. They are particularly grateful to be in this “special place” where so many people care about the community.

The shooting incident at Trader Joe’s on Hyperion in July of this year reminds us that our popular, quaint and quiet neighborhood is not always that way. Even though we may convince ourselves otherwise, we are not protected or immune from violence. On that day, a beloved and respected young woman who was just doing her job and trying to help others, lost her life. The neighborhood was in shock and wounded, for a period of time.

Now, a few months later, the visible signs and memorials of that horrible incident are gone and the feeling of helpless sadness are waning . . .

but the scars remain.

Residents repeatedly wonder and say, “This just does not happen in our neighborhood, we will never forget.”

Those same words were spoken just 18 months prior in 2017 when residents were grief stricken and horrified over the shooting death of a Chevron Gas Station employee at the corner of Los Feliz and Vermont during a late night robbery. Another respected, loved young person died just doing his job at a work place less than a mile away from the Trader Joe’s on Hyperion.

We often seek comfort, security and solace in a community where residents work together to make it a better place. In times of shared sadness, loss and unexplained tragedy we can be grateful for many things, most importantly, for each other.

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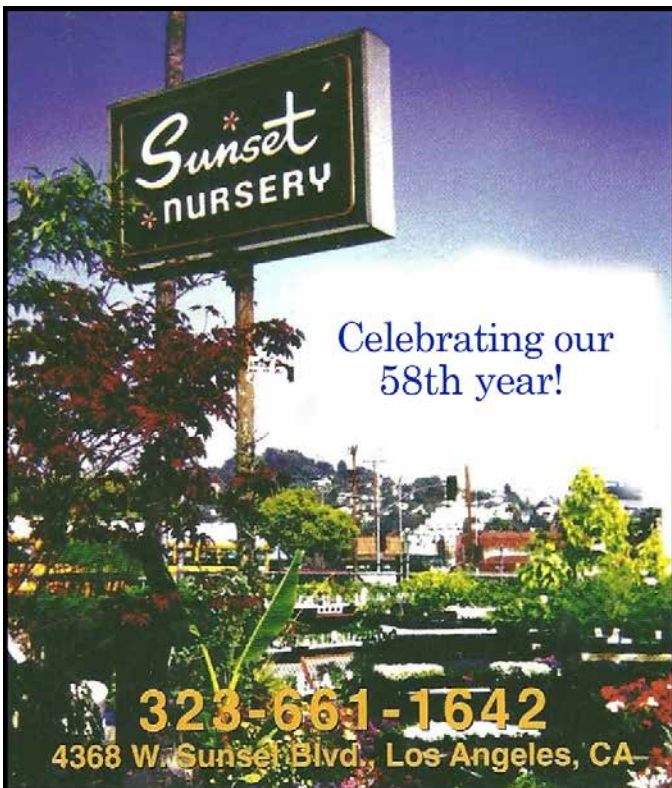
Neighborhood Prosecutor Gabrielle Taylor. Photo by Alison Wallace



Fire Department Captain Andrew Ruiz from Fire Station 35



Councilmember David Ryu. Photo by Alison Wallace



state of the LFNC and encouraged stakeholders to vote at the then upcoming bi-annual election. This will be his last term as he passes the torch to the next generation of involved candidates. FHRA appreciates Mr. Klipp's support of our association and its activities.

Board elections resulted in new board member Yvonne Troxclair and returning members Eric Frase, Charley Mims, Shirley Mims, and Carole Nese. Yvonne is a long-time resident of Franklin Hills who is interested in problem solving challenges that our neighborhood faces. She has since led the way for the Bow Wow WOW contest and has many more ideas to help grow the membership.

The meeting closed with a tour of the Norman Harriton Community Garden led by garden co-chair Kristen Andersen. We are grateful for LILA's support of this garden and for hosting the annual meeting this year.

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New Signs

■ Shirley Mims

Look for new signs to be posted under the Shakespeare Bridge. Restricted Entry and No Smoking signs will be installed to alert potential trespassers they are not allowed to be there. After noticing a new homeless camp under the bridge, neighbor Rick LaRocca alerted authorities who worked to clear the area. During his research, Rick determined that the area under the bridge is a fire zone. Posted signs are fully enforceable. Violators will be subject to fines up to \$1,000. We hope this helps to deter homeless camps and loitering teens.

A dedication plaque will soon be installed (if it isn't there already by the time this *Overview* is published) at the Shakespeare Bridge Garden to commemorate its rededication and 15 year anniversary. During the reconstruction of the garden, workers unearthed two native boulders. These very large rocks will be placed prominently in the garden. One will contain a commemorative



Fire Inspector John Novela and Monon neighbor Rick LaRocca display new signs that are being posted at the Shakespeare Bridge Garden.

plaque. A dedication ceremony is planned for all the City folk who helped return the garden to its finished state. Look for more details on the FHRA website franklinhills.org/events.

Library Volunteerism Builds Community

■ Melinda Peters

Vice President, Friends of Los Feliz Library

I was asked to write about some aspect of our Los Feliz Library, and it was mentioned that “gratitude” is the theme of this issue of the Franklin Hills *Overview*. Initially flummoxed until I heard “gratitude.” I had an immediate sense of direction!

Like most of us, I have a very full, busy life. The last thing I need are additional commitments and obligations. However, I am grateful for the opportunity to be an active volunteer with Friends of Los Feliz Library (FOLFL). As a Board member, I am dragging a bit as the monthly Tuesday evening meeting time approaches, but when I leave several hours later, I truly feel enlivened and appreciative.

Through the set ups for our monthly book sale, I have met a wide variety of interesting people with whom we laugh and chat while working together. Some of us have learned how to scan books for possible sale online, which is much like detective work. A recent find was a book listed for over \$170! Our annual online sales amount to the equivalent of one extra monthly book sale, so our scanning is time well spent.

Currently we are preparing for the annual Holiday Tree Lighting, to take place at 6 p.m. on Saturday, December 1. It is an annual celebration of our community and attended by an increasing number of families and friends.

Last year the local LAFD came with a hook and ladder, the County Sheriff’s horse unit made an appearance, local Girl Scouts sang and Yuca’s champurrado (Mexican hot chocolate) and

cookies were served. And of course, Santa Claus made his rounds!

As our library moves in 2019 toward its 20th year at this location (remember when we were just a storefront on North Vermont?), we are planning an April anniversary event. Details are forthcoming, and it has been fun to consider various options for the celebration. If you are someone who schedules really far out, hold Sunday, April 28, 2019, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.!

On an ongoing basis, we fund an assortment of varied and diverse programs. From Early Learning Play to many programs for teens, a monthly movie series, and the very popular “Architecture and Beyond” lectures.

We work with Celebrity Cleaners to clean the stuffed animals loved by the younger children, and are about to install a new water station. FOLFL funds the addition of important books, and we cover the cost of landscape maintenance.

We are fortunate to live in a community where people are involved and giving. Working with FOLFL expands one’s circle of neighbors and underscores one’s sense of connectedness. We welcome anyone (age 14 or older) who is interested in becoming more involved.

Check out our website at friendsoflosfelizlibrary.com or find us on facebook for additional information. Know that your active participation, as well as your financial support are much appreciated. Whether you can help set up for the book sales or hang out the book sale banner, you are most welcome – and likely to come away feeling gratified.

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Yearly membership dues are \$20 per person or \$35 per household.

To become a member, renew a membership, or make a donation, visit www.franklinhills.org/join

Or you can send a check to:
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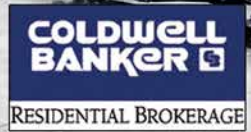
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