



OVERVIEW

FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

ISSUE No. 13

WINTER 1996



PHOTO BY BRUCE CARROLL

The Franklin Avenue Median on its first year anniversary of landscaping by the Franklin Hills Residents Association

D-DAY FOR OUR SHAKESPEARE BRIDGE

By Bruce Carroll

We all learned as kids that London Bridge was forever falling down. City engineers have determined that the same fate could befall our Shakespeare Bridge. But fear not, hopefully before that happens, the City will close it and fix it.

See **BRIDGE**, p. 8

WE FINALLY DID IT!

By Melinda Taylor
Landscape Designer

In 1990 members of the Franklin Hills Residents Association agreed that the median's asphalt covered slope just west of the Shakespeare Bridge, had a visually degrading effect on the bridge, and recognized what a positive influence a well-landscaped median could be. For five years FHRA members developed plans, obtained permits, solicited grants, gathered donations, and negotiated the labyrinthine maze of agencies at City Hall, and on November 11th, 1995, neighbors and community joined together to plant and celebrate the median's transformation.

Many of the people who participated in the celebration planted trees or shrubs in memory of someone particular. One individual, Armida Bolton, gave a generous donation to the project in memory of her late husband Donald, who had a special appreciation for Southern California and for the Franklin Hills. For others the act of planting was a more general way of caring for and participating in the neighborhood. Many of those who turned out last November to plant have returned to the median for the maintenance days scheduled occasionally throughout the past year, tending the plants they personally put in the ground.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Two years ago, I was asked to take the administrative helm of the Franklin Hills Residents Association as its President. Aside from some positions during my school years, I had never been saddled with such an important and complex responsibility. The job has provided some growing pains (and bruises), but not without a great sense of happiness and personal growth.

Over the last two years, FHRA accomplished a number of goals. As President, it has been my goal to focus on each project and systematically move it towards completion. This has meant a great number of hours in small work groups, piecing over details, drinking a few bottles of beer, and bringing residents together towards a common goal: improvement of our neighborhood.

The results are printed in this Overview and can be seen in the neighborhood: the Franklin Hills Median, our 501(c) (3) tax deduction status, improved communication with police and city officials, improved membership and fund raising, public stairs cleaning and reconstruction, two end-of-summer festivals, and The Overview, to name a few. Most important, is that Franklin Hills has emerged as a unique and special neighborhood in Los Angeles. It is no surprise that each month, the hot line gets calls from people wanting to live in Franklin Hills.

With the long list of FHRA's accomplishments, we can not ignore a growing problem: our declining volunteer base. With a governing board of eleven, FHRA's working groups typically consist of a subgroup of board members. A few non-board members have worked a great deal, however, this phenomenon is the exception rather than the rule. A common post-event comment has been: "Sure the board members were there, but what about the rest of our residents?" Residents have made suggestions to improve our neighborhood, but they often disappear into the hills when it comes down to implementation. The ideas often are left on the board's table, simply because there are not enough volunteers to handle the present work load.

In the last decade, citizens have been torn between their vocation and community service. Often times, it become a pragmatic choice based upon time. Many ask, "What's in it for me? What will I gain from my volunteer work?" Community service is not for profit, but an individual process of self-understanding. This comes through applying one self within a social network. For FHRA, the network is made of your own neighbors. In sum, community involvement is really a mystery, in which you will not know the outcome until you begin the adventure. As President, I invite the residents of Franklin Hills to approach the mystery with excitement and begin the adventure through FHRA.

Have a happy and productive new year

Adam Weisman
President

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OUR LIBRARY IS ON ITS WAY

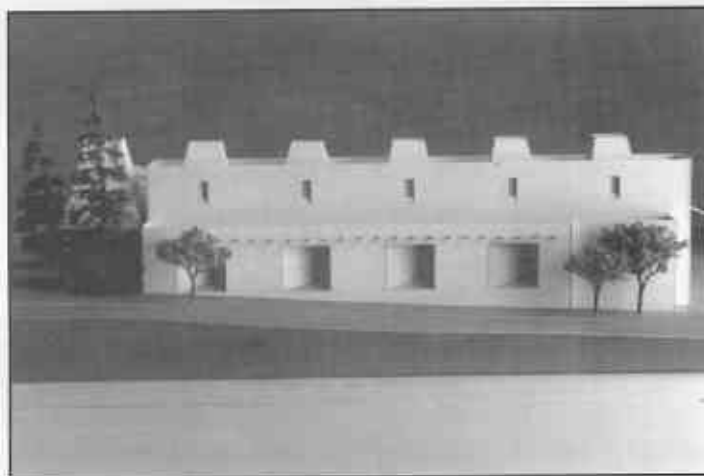
by Carol Skinner

The Northridge earthquake had a strange assortment of long-term impacts on our hill. Surely we all remember the months in which there was a dumpster and a pile of bricks at every third house. And who can ever forget FEMA? And, the departure of our Los Feliz Branch Library from the dark, grungy, incredibly crowded storefront which it had occupied for so long.

The bad news was that we were without a library for months. The good news is that the library reopened in a *much* nicer storefront. I haven't felt the need to take a flashlight back into the stacks since. Space for children's circles, space for magazine readers, tables and chairs—no more homework circles in the alley.

The photocopier works. If you read the article in *The Los Angeles Times Magazine* a month or so ago, you must have noticed that the reporter was impressed at how well a library *can* function in a storefront.

There is a row of computers on one side. One can access on-line information about holdings from the entire LAPL, and request an inter-library loan from the branch which has the desired



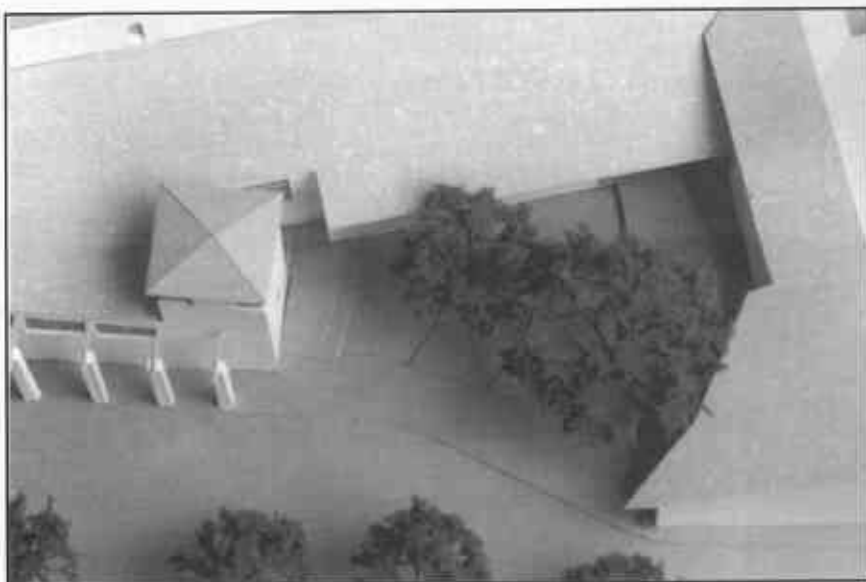
book. And, a picture behind the charge desk of the new library building, as it will be. The best news is that we will at last have a real library building. Friends of the Library committees have been working on fundraising plans to add even more features—and we expect to see every hill dweller make whatever contribution you can.

Peter Mann, the senior librarian was asked about the immediate future of the project:

"Library construction plans are pretty much complete. Very minimal changes will be made to meet the *Americans with Disabilities Act* requirements. Ground breaking will probably begin in January or February of 1997; possibly even in December of this year. Construction is usually about 18 months, could be as much as 24 months if unforeseen problems develop. I have the utmost confidence that due to the diligence with which things were done initially, the whole project should go along quite nicely.

"The new building will be mostly as described in previous publications, incorporating Mediterranean, Spanish revival and Southwestern styles. It will include a story telling tower, a bookstore, a community meeting room and

See LIBRARY, p. 7



DWP COVER-UP FOLLOWS MAYVIEW RESIDENTS' COMPLAINTS

by Bruce Carroll

Anyone who's been on Mayview Drive recently has surely wondered why the driveways were littered with asphalt, and the curbs lined with temporary water mains...and your street could be next. The answer is simple according to the DWP's Fernando Cano. "Basically what it is, is you have a bunch of tuberculation in the pipe there." In non-engineer speak that's rust and corrosion. In neighborhood speak that's dirty water. And a lot Mayview residents have been speaking to the DWP. "We were really deluged with water quality complaints."

While there are long range plans to replace the mains, which are up to 73 years old, the DWP showed it listens and is the kind of old bird that has ears and a heart, as well as its familiar bill. According to project engineer Cano, "it might take us a number of years to get up there and install some new lines so we didn't want the residents to have to put up with dirty water for another five years."

The DWP's solution is to force scrapers and squeegees through the clogged 4 and 8 inch pipes. When they are clean, a 3/16 inch coating of cement is cleverly sprayed on the inside. Cano explained that



It's a messy job but . . . David Trujillo prepares the cement spraying nozzle and spring loaded trowel to be pulled through the 8" water main under Mayview Drive



while the cement cover-up doesn't prevent water from getting to the pipe walls, the alkalinity of the cement inhibits further corrosion. "We figure on extending the life of the existing mains for 50 to 60 years."

While Mayview residents have griped about inconveniences during the project, which was a last minute addition to work in Silver Lake, Cano pointed out, "It inconveniences the residents quite a bit more to put a new line in." It also inconveniences the DWP's pocketbook since cementing runs about \$30 per foot compared to \$100 for new pipes.

The Mayview project coated about 1,500 feet of pipe. A 12 mile cementing project including: Franklin, Lyric, Ronda Vista, Tracy, Hyperion, Prospect, Talmadge, Fountain, and other streets too numerous to mention, is on the drawing board for May, 1999. But Cano, after what he's seen from the current work, hopes to start sooner. "There seems to be very serious water quality problems that should be addressed as soon as possible. That's why I'll be recommending that they try to move that up."

What can we do in the meantime, other than hope the markets don't run out of bottled water...follow the example of Mayviewites who proved that just as "the squeaking wheel gets the grease"...the squawking residents get the clean water.

• community phones •

IMPORTANT COMMUNITY PHONE NUMBERS

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Security: (310) 557-5354.
- CITY ANIMAL REGULATION:** (213) 222-7138
- COUNCILMAN JOHN FERRARO, 4th District-**
(213) 485-3337
Room M-30, City Hall, 200 Spring St., L.A. 90012
- DEPT. OF ANIMAL REGULATION:** (213)485-5761
Barking Dogs: 222-7138 or 731-8281
- ENVIRONMENTAL:**
Recycling: (800)-CITYSAN
Rebate for Ultra Low Flush Toilet installation.
(213) 481-5800; (800) 722-1122
Rebate for Super Efficient Gas Water Heater.
(800) 852-9820
Hazardous Waste Hotline (213) 237-1634
Operation Clean Sweep (213) 237-1797
- FIRE DEPARTMENT: Emergency 911;**
Non-emergency: 485-6235.
- GRAFFITI :**
LAPD-NE Graffiti Cleanup (213) 237-0511
Graffiti Hotline: (213) 485-0511
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Community Relations: (213) 485-2548
Sr. Lead Officer Richard Kanzaki: 847-3138
Sr. Lead Officer Sam Salazar: 847-3135
- RAPE HOTLINE** (213) 392-8381
- RECYCLING INFO:** (800) 773-2489
- SANITATION:** (213) 485-4906
- STREET LIGHTING:** (800) 303-5267 or 485-3461
- STREET MAINTENANCE:** (213) 485-5661
- SUICIDE PREVENTION HOTLINE:** (213) 381-5111
- TELECOMMUNICATIONS:** (TV Cable) 485-2751
- TRASH RECEPTACLE INFO:** (800) 248-9726
- TREE TRIMMING (Hazards)** 485-5661
- WATER & POWER:** (800) 722-1122

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FHRA NEEDS YOUR HELP in fighting grafitti in our area. We need someone to organize paint outs and people to work. We provide all materials. Call the Hotline to volunteer. 664-7247

FRANKLIN FOTOS

As you have no doubt noticed, the editor of the Overview has an affinity for photographs taken in the early years of the Franklin Hills, Los Feliz and Silver Lake areas. We are trying to assemble a pictorial history of our district and would like to hear from anyone with such photos. If you grew up here, or if your parents built a house here, or if you inherited some photographs, please give us a call on the Hotline or send them to our mailbox.

We guarantee they will be handled very carefully while we have a copy negative made. The originals will be returned to you in their original condition. Look for your old photographs and give us a call!

Disaster Preparedness

FHRA Disaster Preparedness needs to know about the trained professionals living in our area. There is a clear need for doctors, nurses & trained emergency personnel in a disaster. If you are willing to assist in such an event, please contact the Hotline: 664-7247

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MY VIEW

by Bruce Carroll

THE FRANKLIN HILLS CONSPIRACY

Whatever explanations you might have heard or read for the mysterious two year disappearance of the Franklin Hills Overview...there was a rumor it was caused by the last issue's article on the "Curse of Los Feliz...it's all bunk. For the first time here, I am able to reveal that it was the result of a sinister plot to destroy the media by proving true the old cliché..."no news is good news."

Researchers from TLC, a think-tank whose initials stand for Twisted Logic Corporation, devised a plan to demonstrate that things would really be better in the world if there was no news. With a limited budget, they had to focus on a small area. Late in 1994, after studying all their options, they picked the Franklin Hills because of the fine reputation of the Overview.

If they could show this newspaper held back progress, their theory would be proven. Virtually every Overview issue trumpeted plans to landscape the median, but all we saw were the weeds and graffiti. There was always an article about getting a new library, but in 1994 even our old library had closed. The Overview reported on measures to mitigate crime and prepare for disasters...but crime continued, and we had a big earthquake. Researchers reasoned if they could muzzle the Overview for two years and point to positive results it would not be long before the world would be clamoring for every newspaper, magazine, and broadcast station to shut-up.

While rummaging through yellow recycle bins, I found a first draft of their yet to be released report.

Despite my 35 years in journalism, I must confess they make a very convincing case. With the Overview snuffed-out, Franklin Hills residents have finally landscaped the median. The study also points out that the library is open again and now has Internet access. And at long last, land for a brand new Los Feliz Branch Library has been cleared. There have been no damaging earthquakes here since publication ceased.

But above all, the most unforgivable crime ever reported in the Overview...the theft in April 1994 of my classic 1972 Buick Skylark convertible...was solved. The car, repainted and turned into an Oldsmobile, was recovered in 1995 by very thorough Fontana police. We recently celebrated our 25th anniversary together...the car, not the cops.

While the researchers make a good case for their interpretation of the proposition that "no news is good news," even pointing out that taxes have been lowered because donations to the FHRA are now tax deductible, they conveniently ignore all the good things that FHRA has done, and reported in past issues of the Overview: The Adopt-a-Stair cleanup program, tree planting along Talmadge and Prospect, graffiti abatement, extra "Stop" signs at Franklin and St. George, and many others. But the biggest plus is the sense of community that the Overview itself has engendered.

Let's all work to keep the presses running. By including the Overview and FHRA in your holiday prayers, toasts and maybe even checks, Let's see if we can all help make this a better world...starting right at home.

hopefully, we will be as automated as possible. We would like to be one of the "virtual" libraries: the LUMMIS (Libraries Ultimate Method of Managing Information System), offering such products as a health reference center, full text periodical index, L.A. Times index, Power Pages, and many other things."

Bruce Carroll, our community representative for the Internet, had this to say,

"The Library is a great place to take a test drive on the information super highway. . .if you get lost or crash there is help nearby and it's toll free.

"Having the internet access really expands the Los Feliz Branch Library into a world wide resource. You can research. . .and find. . .everything from a job in Hollywood to 12,848 documents on cancer, to the latest jokes in Armenia.

"Since we only have one internet computer. . .donations of equipment or money are welcome. . .there is a daily sign up sheet where you can reserve your half hour in cyberspace. If no one's waiting you can often keep on going for another half hour. And one thing it takes no time to find out... there should be a surgeon general's warning because surfing the-net can become addictive."

Peter concluded our conversation:

"The Internet will help with work and with homework, and provide amusement. Classes should begin in the near future. At the moment, we are providing access and learning a lot from the children. "

And as I looked across the library from the stacks to the roof of computers, sure enough, there was a very serious 10-year-old carefully helping a middle aged patron print out her finds. *Cherchez les kids! Et vive la bibliotheque!*



Buy both or choose your favorite. Get the classic Franklin Hills logo shirt with the Shakespeare Bridge 2-color design printed in teal and purple. There's also the Franklin Hills End Of Summer Festival design printed in white on either a peacock blue or purple shirt. All are heavy-duty 100% cotton. Designed and illustrated by Eugene Cheltenham.

All proceeds from the sale of the shirts go to help fund the Franklin Hills Residents Association's efforts to preserve and enhance our neighborhood.

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REBIRTH OF NEW YET OLD INDEPENDENT BOOKSTORE IN LOS FELIZ VILLAGE

By Marcelle Zonta



It was a sad day for the independent Los Angeles reading public, when Chatterton's, one of the few independent bookstores in the area, closed down due to the death of William "Koki" Iwamoto who was the driving force behind Chatterton's.

As of November 1st, there has been a rebirth of Chatterton's in the form of a wonderful new bookstore called SKYLIGHT BOOKS. (Located in the same spot, at 1818 N. Vermont Avenue, south of Franklin, next to the Los Feliz Cinema and across from the Post Office). We visited the store while waiting for the theater to open up and found to our delight, that though things had changed slightly in the interior, which now supports a large and wonderful tree in the middle, there are still spaces for sitting and browsing.

Although, they are still adding more stock to their shelves, Skylight Books promises to be just as exciting as the old Chatterton's, and quite clearly is leaning in the

direction of the "alternative" choices in books. Skylight is not attempting to be another Chatterton's but it is building on that foundation of the independent bookstore and will no doubt turn out to be just what we in the area have been hoping for.

Like Chatterton's before them, the new owners hope the store will become a real community gather-

ing place and a place of creativity, with "works in progress" performances, author visits and readings, political and community discussions etc.

By the time you read this, the Grand Opening will already have taken place during the Thanksgiving weekend. But the exciting plans include the following: Nancy Cartwright, the voice of Bart Simpson, will read children's stories, local poet Wanda Coleman will read from her latest work, "Native Daughter." James Ragan, a professor with USC's writing program, will also be reading some of his own works. There are also hints of surprise guests who will be reading from select authors associated with Los Angeles, like Raymond Chandler, Nathaniel West and Charles Bukowski.

So if you've a few minutes or more to spare, look in on the SKYLIGHT bookstore. I know you will be most pleasantly surprised. See you there.

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1818 N. Vermont in Los Feliz Village

MEDIAN from p. 1

The median planting is now one year old, and as we celebrate its first birthday we have good reason to be proud—it is growing well, its structure is developing its beauty is apparent. It survived a year without suffering vandalism or theft of any kind; it weathered the rain of its first winter without eroding or sliding into the roadway. Its irrigation system works well, all small bugs and glitches rectified. Its plaque commemorating Donald Bolton is in place.

In the next year we can look forward to its continued growth, and its increasing drought-tolerance and hardiness as plants become established on the site. We can expect to enjoy more flowers this coming year, as plants mature, and less weeding, as they fill in the bare areas of ground around them. In short, we can look forward to the median becoming more beautiful this year, and every year following, as plants become established and develop into their mature forms.

Some Background Notes on the Franklin Avenue Median Design Intent

The Franklin Avenue Median is designed to visually reflect its particular location in the Los Feliz/ Franklin Hills area of Los Angeles, California. It contains many plants native to hillside areas of Southern California, plants which can be found growing naturally in the hills of Griffith Park and the lower areas of the San Gabriel Mountains. It also contains plants growing in the front gardens of houses on either side of Franklin Avenue. If you look closely you'll see purple lantana, for example, growing on the median just across the roadway from where it covers a neighbor's front yard slope.

Plants have been selected and placed on the median to bloom in succession, with the furthest reaches of the project area blooming in fall and winter, and the mid-sections providing spring and summer bloom.

BRIDGE, from p. 1

Starting on the 53rd anniversary of D-Day...June 6th...for you historically challenged folks...an army of workers will take the bridge out of action and begin extensive earthquake strengthening. According to project engineer Raffi Massaloki the really noisy part of demolition won't begin until June 23, 1997. The date was chosen to ease the potential for aching eardrums, and strained teacher tonsils at the LILA school just below the bridge. The school will be out for the summer.

By this time next year the bridge should be stronger than when it was new in 1926...and look even more like the original plan. City researchers found old plans showing eight lamp-posts instead of the current four. For Franklin Hills residents who'd like to have a challenging job near home, the City's request for bids on the project goes out January 9, 1997. Bridgework anyone?

In these ways the landscape design acts as a locator of sorts. It is a landmark for the Franklin Hills and Los Feliz area, it acknowledges its location in a residential neighborhood surrounded by residential landscape design, and it refers to its greater geographical location in Southern California in time.

Climate and Color in Southern California:

Our Southern California climate of mild rainy winters and hot dry summers is described as a Mediterranean one. We have a dry season from May to October and a distinct rainy one from November to April, but within our rainy season precipitation is erratic and unpredictable, and made more difficult to forecast by the recurrence of drought cycles that can last for many years in a row.

The plants that are adapted to our Mediterranean climate have evolved with a strong correlation to the availability of water. As a result, many of these plants have active growing and flowering cycles from mid winter to late spring, and become less active or dormant from summer through fall, as water supplies fail.

The quintessential look of California—the landscape of golden brown rolling hills dotted with dark green umbrellas of Live Oak trees and other trees and shrubs throwing their dark shadows on the ground—this is the look of a climate where perennials (grasses, in this case) go dormant in the summer in response to drought and shrubs and trees (such as the Oak) have tough, thick leaves which help them retain water until winter rains arrive again.

Driving North on the 5 freeway from Los Feliz Boulevard, we can see this dotted green-on-brown landscape covering the hills of Griffith Park through September and into October or November. If we look closely at the specific plants comprising this palette, we can see subtle variations in the colors of these plants, variations which are also responses to climate and available rainfall.

Some of the area's plants are succulents, such as the Agaves, which absorb moisture in their fleshy stems and leaves and resist drought with the use of their own internal water supply. Certain woody shrubs, such as *Eriogonum giganteum* and *Fremontodendron* have soft hairy coverings on their (leaves which help to retain moisture and provide shade on the leaf surface. Other shrubs, such as *Salvia apiana*, have leaves that are gray or silver in color to reflect light. Many of the plants selected for the Median have one or more of these particular adaptations.

The color and textural adaptations of these Mediterranean plants is highly practical, but no more practical than beautiful. The brown and silver/gray foliage that is prevalent in many plants adapted to our Mediterranean climate gives this palette its wonderful smoky, shimmering quality. The deep green leather-leaved evergreens that do well next to them also look best next to them—dark green complements this gray/bronze palette.

FHRA's ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE:

THE CRIME COMMITTEE AND COMMUNITY POLICE ADVISORY BOARD

By Adam Weisman

At FHRA, there has always been a standing committee addressing the crime problems in the neighborhood. In the last two years, the committee has been given an additional responsibility, by representing FHRA for the Northeast Police Department Community Police Advisory Board (CPAB).

The Northeast CPAB has representatives from each community in the Northeast LAPD Division. Adam Weisman is the official CPAB board member and Carol Skinner is the alternate. Board members have direct access to Division Captain Louis Gray and attend monthly meetings at the police station. Board members receive biweekly crime statistics for the Northeast Division, and can consult with the Crime Analysis Division (CAD), regarding specific crime trends within specific neighborhoods.

FHRA is serviced by two independent basic car units, A01 and A51. Basic car unit A01 includes the elevated portion of FHRA (reporting district 1143) and is managed by Senior Lead Officer (SLO) Stacy Miyamura. Basic car unit A51 covers the area between ABC Studios and King Junior High (reporting district 1152) and is managed by SLO Sam Salazar. Each SLO has maintained good communication with FHRA and worked with board members in addressing the crime concerns of the neighbors.

Over the last two years, a number of issues have been forwarded by Adam and Carol to meet the needs of FHRA. First, we have been vocal in getting CAD data, to better understand the crime trends in our neighborhood. LAPD has been slow in dis-

seminating such information, but in the last few months the CAD program is working for FHRA.

Second, as mentioned above, we are serviced by two basic car unit and their respective senior lead officers. Although two he maybe better than one, two managers more often work at cross purposes which makes for a confusing crime policy. In the last month, FHRA has been stunned to learn that the 1143 reporting district will be switched to a "new" basic car unit, which is primarily based in Silverlake. This has led to a number of meetings with city and police officials, to voice our concerns about this change. While we welcome the addition of a new basic car unit to Northeast LAPD, the crime committee does

not believe the 1143 should be switched to a different geographic district. We have made two proposals: one of which involves combining 1143 and 1152 under SLO Salazar. The second idea, keeping 1143 with SLO Miyamura, has been flatly denied. In the next few months, the outcome of this issue will be known.

Last, Adam and Carol have worked hard to improve the communication channels between police and neighbors. We have acted as a sounding board for neighbors who have been victims of crime. Through Adam's professional involvement with the law enforcement, legal, and correctional system, he has provided on-call service to crime victims in the neighborhood.

Continued on next page

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THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

By Adam Weisman

For many residents who have not heard of FHRA, it is helpful to explain the structure of the organization. There are eleven members of the board of directors, who are elected to a two-year term. Five board members are elected each even-numbered year, six members are elected each odd-numbered year. From the board of directors, the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary, and Chairman, are elected. The Chairman is an emeritus position limited to past-presidents. The board meets monthly for approximately two hours. An agenda for the meetings is developed by the President.

FHRA is always looking for members who are interested in serving on the board. Every year, at least one board member steps off the board, often to work on a single project within the hills. Each member works very hard within the organizational process. We welcome nominations from the hill and invite anyone interested to come to a board meeting and see what goes on.

CPAB, from p. 10

Carol has developed business card and stationary for all CPAB board members, to enhance CPAB's image in the community.

In the spirit of community service, the crime committee is always looking for new members. Future projects include developing a block watch program focusing upon the neighborhood surrounding King Middle School.

Please contact Adam or Carol for more information or if you would like to serve on the CPAB Board.

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We are going to keep this section short so that you don't become bored with the FHRA directors. There are 11 of us, and as a public service to save you the math of converting the year we moved to Franklin Hills into impressive statistics...we've been here a total of 189 years...that's an average of over 17 years per director. While we don't have any butchers, bakers or candlestick makers, we earn a buck in a wide variety of ways. Take a look below...and when you see one of us in the neighborhood say hello.



Adam Weisman, Ph.D., President, 1992, Forensic Psychologist...examines crazy crooks...teaches at USC and Pepperdine.

Chris Boutelle, Vice President, 1980, Television Studio Grip...or is that vise grip.



Bruce Carroll, Treasurer, 1970, Retired Expert... spent 28 years at ABC News becoming a curmudgeon.

Timothy Cutler, Secretary, 1992, Attorney...afraid he'll sue if we joke about his profession.



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Bryant Crouse, 1984, Entertainment Industry Executive Recruiter...aka headhunter.



Sally Lindblom, 1990, Director of Contracting for major Medical Group... Operates to relieve HMO's of \$\$\$.



Charley Mims, 1986, Chief Construction Inspector, LA City Public Works... secretly runs the whole city.



Carol Skinner, 1968, Retired LAUSD Vocal Music Teacher...now voices creativity through desktop publishing.



Violet Weber, 1965, Fashion Export Consultant...nicest former LA Times fashion editor on the hill or in the dales



Marcelle Zonta, 1970, MetroRail Engineering Receptionist...fastest walker on the hill.



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ADOPT-A-STAIR PROGRAM

Amongst Franklin Hills are 14 public access stairways, which were constructed during the 1930's. Today, many of the stairs are in need of maintenance and reconstruction. Because of Proposition 13, the formal stairway maintenance program administered by the city was cut. In the last three years, FHRA has developed an adopt-a-stair program, to encourage residents to take care of the stairways. Many of you have taken the challenge and helped keep the stairs clean.

In response to our program, the city has joined in to help restore our stairways. The city restored the Sanborn-Clayton stairway banister. Within the last month, construction work began at the Sanborn Stair (Sanborn near Sunset Drive) to rebuild the stair and drainage system. FHRA future projects include a community service day with Marshall High School, involving portions of Radio Walk and Prospect Walk stairways.

If you are interested in the adopt-a-stair program, or would like to help plan a stair cleaning day, please contact Adam Weisman at 666-4630.

* * * * *

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* * * * *



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AN OPEN LETTER

A Plea To Fellow Dog Owners

My family often gets its only exercise when we take our dog Chelsea on the evening walk.

When we go on these walks, we always make a big show of cleaning up after our dog. We quickly lift up the plastic bag high in the air, then scoop it down and pick up the poop, yuck. It may be unpleasant, but hey, it's necessary.

In the last few months, new signs have sprung up asking the residents to pick up after their dogs. Whenever we see these signs we hope they don't think it's us leaving behind the ugly mess. The point is that it is clear the sentiment of the Franklin Hills residents has reached its limit of tolerance.

To help the dog owners, some of the neighbors have put up bins as repositories for our beloved pets. And, there is a natural greenway along the Mayview-Udell Court stairway and at the end of Lyric Avenue-Hyperion stairway.

There are a lot of people who love the neighborhood and want to stay. Collectively, we can make this a better place to live. Lets not get to the point where we may actually be wearing ankle-high boots to avoid the dog hazards of the neighborhood. Please clean up after your pets.

Sally Lindblom,
Franklin Hills

CRITTERS

Possums and skunks and coyotes and all
When nights are brisk are out having a ball.

The moon shines brightly on various beasties
Who paw through the garbage in hopes of some "feasties".

The hill is alive with the voices of hounds
A siren will do it, or any old sounds.

The kitty cats watch from their favorite perches
If they're out they will go on some serious searches

For mockingbirds, scrub jays and pigeons galore
Who populate trees and the patio floor.

The census consensus will never be true
Since it overlooks species except me and you.

—Carol Skinner



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SCAM WATCH

by Chris Boutelle

You get home and notice that the message light is blinking on your answering machine. You listen to the message which has several wrinkles, but the best one is the caller asks you to call a number beginning with area code 809 to receive information about a family member who has been taken ill. (They may also tell you someone has been arested, died or you may have won a wonderful prize.)

In any event, concerned or curious, you make the call. Sometimes the phone will be answered by a person who claims to speak broken English. (The idea is to keep you on the line to build up charges.) Or, sometimes you will just get a long recorded message. The bottom line is, when your phone bill comes, you see an incredible charge, often more than \$100!

Crooks are using the 809 numbers as "pay-per-calls" and to get around the US regulations and 900 number blocking. Every time someone calls the number, the scam artists receive a greatly inflated rebate from the foreign phone company. Since the 809 numbers are in the Caribbean, they aren't bound by United States 900 number regulations that require them to warn you of the charge and rate involved, and also to provide a time period during which you may terminate the call without being charged.

The newest twist to this scam is to page people using the 809 numbers. With the new area code changes, people unknowingly are returning these calls. When the bill comes, there are HUGE charges for the calls.

My suggestion is that no matter how you get the message, if you are asked to call a number with an 809 area code that you don't recognize, **DON'T RETURN THE CALL!** It is bad enough that the criminal is invading your privacy, don't let them invade your wallet as well!

Scams of this type are extremely hard to prosecute and since you did actually make the call, neither your local phone company or your long distance carrier will want to get involved. They'll tell you that they are simply providing the billing for the foreign company. You end up trying to deal (over the phone) with a foreign company that feels they have done no wrong. It can be a real nightmare!

THE CRIME COMMITTEE

COMMUNITY POLICE ADVISORY BOARD

by Adam Weisman

At FHRA, there has always been a standing committee addressing the crime problems in the neighborhood. In the last two years, the committee has been given an additional responsibility, by representing FHRA for the Northeast Police Department Community Police Advisory Board (CPAB).

The Northeast CPAB has representatives from each community in the Northeast LAPD Division. Adam Weisman is the official CPAB board member and Carol Skinner is the alternate. Board members have direct access to Division Captain Louis Gray and attend monthly meetings at the police station. Board members receive bi-weekly crime statistics for the Northeast Division, and can consult with the Crime Analysis Division (CAD), regarding specific crime trends within specific neighborhoods.

FHRA is serviced by two independent basic car units, A01 and A51. Basic car

unit A01 includes the elevated portion of FHRA (reporting district 1143) and is managed by Senior Lead Officer (SLO) Stacy Miyamura. Basic car unit A51 covers the area between ABC Studios and King Junior High (reporting district 1152) and is managed by SLO Sam Salazar. Each SLO has maintained good communication with FHRA and worked with board members in addressing the crime concerns of the neighbors.

Over the last two years, a number of issues have been forwarded by Adam and Carol to meet the needs of FHRA. First, we have been vocal in getting CAD data, to better understand the crime trends in our neighborhood. LAPD has been slow in disseminating such information, but in the last few months the CAD program is working for FHRA.

Second, as mentioned above, we are serviced by two basic car unit and their respective senior lead officers. Although two he maybe better than one, two managers

more often work at cross purposes which makes for a confusing crime policy. In the last month, FHRA has been stunned to learn that the 1143 reporting district will be switched to a "new" basic car unit, which is primarily based in Silverlake. This has led to a number of meetings with city and police officials, to voice our concerns about this change. While we welcome the addition of a new basic car unit to Northeast LAPD, the crime committee does not believe the 1143 should be switched to a different geographic district. We have made two proposals: one of which involves combining 1143 and 1152 under SLO Salazar. The second idea, keeping 1143 with SLO Miyamura, has been flatly denied. In the next few months, the outcome of this issue will be known.

Last, Adam and Carol have worked hard to improve the communication channels between police and neighbors. We have acted as a sounding board for neighbors who have been victims of crime. Through Adam's professional involvement with the law enforcement, legal, and correctional system, he has provided on-call service to crime victims in the neighborhood. Carol has developed business card and stationary for all CPAB board members, to enhance CPAB's image in the community.

In the spirit of community service, the crime committee is always looking for new members. Future projects include developing a block watch program focusing upon the neighborhood surrounding King Middle School. Please contact Adam or Carol for more information or if you would like to serve on the CPAB Board.

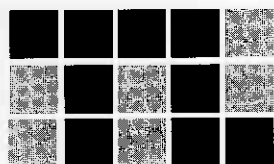


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— Carol Skinner

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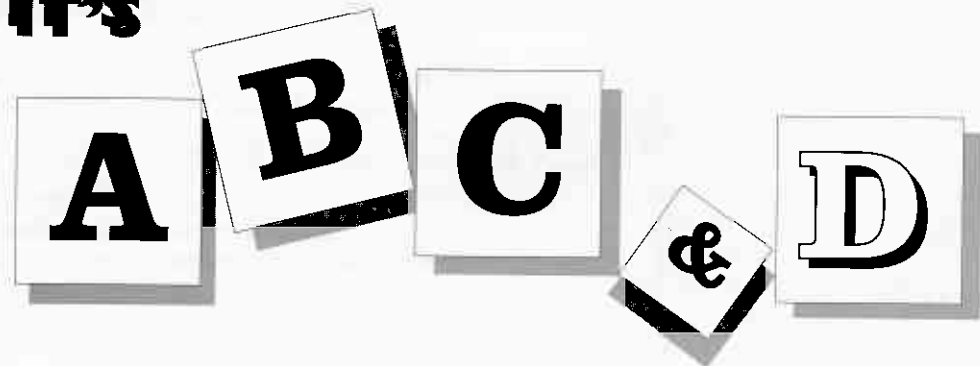
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*'Tis the Month Before Xmas
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There's a new neighbor stirring...
who owns Mickey Mouse.*

When mega-mouse Disney, swallows your biggest neighbor...ABC-Capital Cities...you might wonder: what's next? Robert L. Young, Vice President and General Manager of ABC's West Coast Operations, is not just wondering what's next...he's planning for it. And what's encouraging, according to FHRA President Adam Weisman is, "He's a young approachable guy whose willing to work with the community."

Young has developed a long range plan that has KABC, Channel 7, moving from the neighborhood within the next few years. That would leave the studio (which, at 84 years, is probably the oldest thing in Franklin Hills except for the rocks) to be used for production both by the ABC Network and Disney Studios. The as-yet-unapproved plan envisions two new stage, and the removal of a couple of older buildings to increase parking.

Already some Disney production has been moved to the TV Center Lot and top Disney execs have eagerly toured their new toy...something Cap Cities head hochos never bothered to do. In fact Cap Cities kept parts of the facility idle much of the ten years they owned it.

While Disney ownership won't magically transform TV Center into "The Happiest Place on Earth," Young is happy about the signs of Disney interest in preserving and improving the facility, and we in Franklin Hills should be happy that Young really seems committed to being a good neighbor.

— Bruce Carroll

HOJY DAYS? HOJY DAYS?

'Tis time! Deck the halls with boughs of holly...

In a frantic rush to show we're jolly.

*Holiday season...let's pour on the Cheer...
Shopping lists, parties and flashing reindeer.*

*Now, just imagine, NO bells a jinglin'...
The malls bereft of phony Kris Kringlin'.*

*It's hard to conceive a true silent night...
Ditto that Christmas here will be white.*

*But let's try...as this season is greeted...
keep its true meaning...don't further retreat-it*

*We all can bestow a truly fine gift.
One simple smile gives someone a lift.*

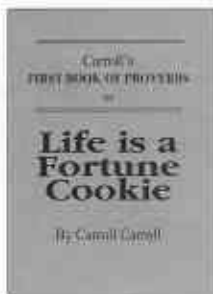
*Peace takes a whole world of smiles
...Goodwill.*

Why not start right here on our Franklin Hill?

— Bruce Carroll

JOIN FHRA

See page 23 for details



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FOR WHAT ITS WORTH

by Don Waldrop

As former President of the FHRA and Editor, Publisher, Designer and Type Setter of this newsletter, I would like to take a little space to thank everyone for their donations and physical support of the various FHRA projects, including but not limited to the Median Landscaping Project, the End of Summer Festival, our Disaster Preparation Training Courses and the house-to-house hand delivery of these newsletters.

I ended my six year self-imposed term as President last year with relief and pleasure to see the reins of leadership taken up by new President, Adam Weisman. Adam brings new energy and enthusiasm plus a Ph.D. in Psychology (a definite advantage when the need to motivate people arises.) The new Vice President is long-time board member and all-around sparkplug, Chris Boutelle, a never failing source of energy for us all. With these guys and the rest of the Board in charge, the Association can't go wrong. I urge you to support the FHRA both financially and by

volunteering your own energy and presence.

Some of my Favorite Things

A recent arrival in the Franklin Hills, Los Feliz and Silverlake area is a fantastic new small Italian restaurant on Hyperion at Evans, called "Caffe Capriccio," featuring Southern Italian cuisine by chef/owner Tony De Monte and wife Rosemary. They provide gourmet food in an informal family style atmosphere, including service on their heated patio area. Bring your own wine. (213) 662-5900

Don't miss our newly restored neighborhood movie theater, the Vista Theater, in all its Egyptian grandeur. It is repainted in its original style and the owners have, amazingly, taken out every other row of seats, so patrons have unlimited leg room. The projection and sound are state of the art, they show first run movies, they have reasonable prices and fresh popcorn. Still better than a rented video any day. We owe our thanks to Director Lance Alspaugh for the restoration.

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Franklin Hills References Available



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BIRTHDAY, continued from p.24

had spent a staggering \$13,763.44. Even more staggering was your generosity. In three months, from October through December of 1995, we raised over \$11,000 from 112 FHRA members and supporters. That about equaled all the dues and donations for the previous three years.

At the official dedication of the median landscaping where Councilman John Ferraro handed out certificates of civic appreciation to the FHRA and those like Project Manager Riccardo Accorsi, Landscape Designer Melinda Taylor, Chairman Don Waldrop and Charley Mims, whose magic navigated the maze at City Hall. Ferraro commented, "One of the nice things about being a council person is to come to a gathering like this to celebrate something that you have done yourself. You have taken an interest in your community and neighborhood and made it a better community, a better neighborhood because of your interest."

This year that interest has declined. Donations have fallen off to only \$635. Expenses for new and replacement plants, maintenance, water and the like have topped \$1,200. While we should all give ourselves a pat on the back for a fine job, be careful not to dislocate your shoulder. The Median committee wants you to be able to pickup your checkbook...or a shovel...and give us a hand.

**PLEASE MAKE YOUR TAX-DEDUCTIBLE GIFTS TO:
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Post Office Box 29122, Los Angeles, CA 90027**


If you're interested in tennis, the new Vermont Canyon Tennis Complex in Griffith Park is staffed with certified tennis pros for private lessons, clinics, and pro shop. (213) 663-6549

Check out local artist **Synthia Saint James** new show at Third World Art Exchange, 2016 Hillhurst Avenue. She is a neighborhood treasure with her vibrant, bright colors in a folk idiom. Get to it soon because her show ends on December 8th. (213) 666-9537

Have you actually BEEN to the **Gene Autry Western Heritage Museum** in Griffith Park near the zoo? It honors the American West, from its Native American roots through pioneer times to the legacy that Hollywood created, not only featuring Gene Autry but Roy Rogers and the other cowboy movie heroes. A Frederick Winchester exhibition is on now. It has a fabulous gift shop and a coffee shop for a snack. (213) 667-2000.

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Larger contributions are extremely welcome. Thank you for joining FHRA!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY DEAR MEDIAN

by Bruce Carroll

Happy Birthday to you...Happy Birthday to you...Happy Birthday dear Median... Unlike most one year olds, the Franklin Avenue Median Landscaping didn't yell and scream during its first birthday party last month...and it didn't get cake all over its face. It did get a bunch of new plants installed by a cadre of volunteers who then dug into a 6-foot sub lunch and devoured our beloved Shakespeare Bridge...in cake form, of course.

About 30 possessors of green or semi-green thumbs from FHRA, LFIA and Marshall High spent a sunny Saturday morning sprucing up the median. It was the largest turnout for any of the Median cleanup/planting days since the initial planting was done on November 11, 1995. That effort to erase an eyesore, also focused attention on the Franklin Hills with coverage by our neighbor, Channel 7 Eyewitness News, and a big spread on the front page of LA Sunday Times Metro section headlined, "Acts of

Caring Bloom Across Landscape." It described our "tenacious efforts and generosity" as the agents that were able to "transform one tiny irritating slice of the urban landscape into something pleasing."



Becoming more pleasing with the passage of time, the median plants, like babies, spent their first year growing, creeping and crawling. While they didn't need diapers there were plenty of other expenses. The irrigation system cost over \$5,000. But it's no good without water...getting a water meter installed cost another \$1,200. The heavy labor and skillful rock work cost over \$3,000. And then you need the plants. Ring up an-

other \$2,000, not counting those donated by the Los Angeles Conservation Corps and others. We avoided a huge expense when the City donated their work to remove and cart away the graffiti marred asphalt that none of us seem to miss.

When all the Median Project bills were in for 1995 we

See BIRTHDAY, p. 23



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