



OVERVIEW

FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

ISSUE No. 14

WINTER 1997



PHOTOMONTAGE BY BRUCE CARROLL

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Happy Holidays

by Bruce Carroll

*W*ith Santa Claus a comin' to town, better let him know our bridge is down.

Deck the Halls with Boughs of Holly.
Re-deck our bridge and we'll be jolly.

Christmas, Hanukkah, or Kwaanza, this season everyone wants a...

Peaceful world, cured of its ills.
So let's start here in Franklin Hills...

Wishing Joy to the World...and peace.
May trust and tolerance increase.

FROM THE PRESIDENT



by Adam Weissman, President, FHRA

OH MY! what a year this has been! For many of you, this last year started out peacefully and ended up with the noise of jackhammers and dust swirling about the bridge. Others have been upset by criminal elements, only to be surprised by the police making arrests and apartment owners exercising their power of eviction.

Still others have struggled with city officials regarding quality of life and adult entertainment establishments along the Hyperion corridor. These three issues alone have emerged almost simultaneously within Franklin Hills and have often struggled to become the main course at each monthly Board meeting. As a result, the board members often feel stuffed after each meeting, having to consume so much material and to make so many important decisions which impact us all. For these efforts and long hours, I would like to personally thank all the members, past and present, for their hard work.

Through the efforts of the Board, this past year has once again seen a great deal of organizational growth. Following our birthday celebration for the median, FHRA held its annual Crime/Disaster Meeting. With a packed house, members were introduced to LAPD Northeast Division personnel and were given a sneak preview of the bridge retrofit project. In March FHRA co-hosted a City Charter Candidates Debate at Theatre West, which was moderated by Century Cable President William Rosendahl. This really boosted Franklin Hills' image as a constructive political action group. In May Thomas Starr King Middle School helped to host our annual meeting. With over 150 residents in attendance, this was the largest FHRA meeting to date and provided an open forum for city officials to present the Shakespeare Bridge Retrofit project. During the summer months we were present at the Los Feliz Street Fair, where our gallery of photographs (always available for purchase) was second to none.

The Shakespeare Bridge closure marked an important test of our communication with both city officials and neighbors alike. Shirley Newland, our lady of the bridge, has stood sentry in helping mediate parking and traffic problems associated with the bridge closure and has provided a single point of communication with city officials to help eliminate confusions or misinformation. Shirley has worked with the Tracy-Talmadge Block Watch Association, which is part of the Los Feliz Improvement Association. She provides a strong link between the FHRA and the LFIA in addressing the impact of the bridge. Her efforts deserve our gratitude.

In the midst of the noise of the bridge, a stronger focus on crime problems has been made by the Cumberland Avenue Block Watch Group. Organized by residents on Cumberland, Myra, Manzanita Avenue and Sunset Drive, they have recognized crime patterns along their streets which were not being sufficiently addressed by the LAPD. With the leadership of Rick Gomez and others, they have worked hard with police officials to place pressure on the points of criminal activity. This has met with success, and we congratulate them! The Cumberland group stands out as an example of community organization working towards quality of life goals. FHRA welcomes the chance to work with the group while respecting their independence.

On a different side of the Hill, the focus has been on a proliferation of sexual encounter clubs along Hyperion Avenue. Residents watched as individuals def-

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The **Franklin Hills OVERVIEW** is published as often as possible. We invite your comments on matters relating to articles and the community and, space permitting, we will publish letters mailed to *Editor, OVERVIEW, Box 29122, Los Angeles, CA 90027*

BRIDGING THE GAP OF COMMUNITY SPIRIT

By Shirley Newland
FHRA Bridge Info Coordinator

AUTUMN IS MY FAVORITE TIME OF THE year for strolls through the neighborhood. The air is crisp, the sun is warm, and with skies blown clear by the winds the views from the hills are spectacular. Living just three doors from the Shakespeare Bridge, its span has marked the beginning and end of many of these pleasant walks. Lately, however, I have had to direct my walks to other parts of the neighborhood.

The bridge, built in 1926, was closed in June 1997 for earthquake retrofitting. Progress to date has included removal of the roadway and railways and reinforcement of the abutments. Over the next few months the bridge will be rebuilt with stronger support and have the same appearance as the original architecture. Last I checked, it is still scheduled to reopen in March 1998.

At the beginning of the project I volunteered as the contact person for information involving the closure of the bridge. I figured that as long as I was interested in following along with its progress I would be happy to share this information with my fellow neighbors who would also be affected by the closure. I introduced myself to the FHRA and was immediately accepted.

The FHRA is an extraordinary group of people, each member dedicated to the maintenance and improvement of our neighborhood, each friendly and sociable. Becoming part of this group and getting involved with the bridge project has been a sincere pleasure and given me a sense of belonging in the community.

I have also had the privilege to work with several members of the City. Vince Giron of the Dept. of Transportation (DOT) has been instrumental in getting necessary signs to redirect traffic. But, as serious a matter and thought-through the placement of each sign is, I still get a kick from the "Road Closed Ahead" sign that stands at the top of Monon, a street that dead ends at the base of the bridge. Officer Carlos Sanchez and his crew have been quite effective citing trouble spots along the detour route. Dave Spangler, the inspector on site, is very knowledgeable and cordial. He has a great concern for the outcome of the project and makes sure it is running safely and according to procedure. And the contractor, Matt Moetazedi, has been very cooperative and repeatedly says — graffiti and trailer break-ins aside — how much he enjoys working in our neighborhood.

On the day the work began, at 7 a.m. sharp. I was startled awake — as I'm sure many others in the area were — by a loud boom followed by sounds of heavy metal dragging across the road. Boom after boom, steel girders were being unloaded off

a truck. When I called the project manager's office, Raffi Massabki answered and was stunned to hear my complaint (plus, I was cranky from a root canal I had the previous day). While we were talking and he was assuring me the contractor knows to keep within noise limits and to work quietly before 9 a.m., another boom echoed through my phone. There was a long pause in our conversation. At that point Raffi said he'd take care of the matter right away. And indeed he did. The noise, while necessary, has been tolerable ever since and never again before 9 a.m.

To one who looks no further than the apparent, image is everything. Another incident occurred when we were in the middle of negotiating "No Parking" options on Franklin Avenue. Fliers were distributed to neighbors in the area stating that no decision would be made by the City without our input. The very next day "No Parking" signs went up. At first glance, my hopes of working in cooperation with the city became a shattered illusion. Upon further inquiry, it turned out the contractor had an immediate and temporary need for access to the street for a procession of cement trucks to pour concrete into the excavation at the west end of the bridge. DOT had jumped in to help by putting up the signs and didn't have time to notify us. The day after, the work was done, the signs were gone. Negotiations continued and with the support of all involved we have been able to keep parking available and to keep clear the area for turning around at the bridge.

Aside from these two upsets and a few colorful calls regarding the short cut problem on Hazelkirk, the project has run rather smoothly. The cooperative efforts of everyone involved in this project are outstanding. Individually we are each contributing our talents toward the restoration of this grand and beautiful bridge, and together we are working toward one common goal: a great place to live where we all know each other and share our appreciation through our combined involvement within the community.

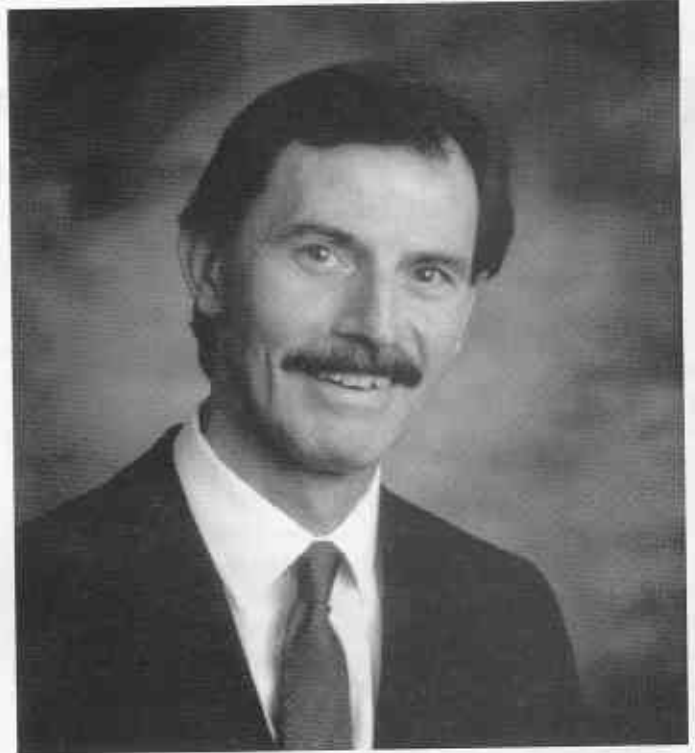
Growing up I never lived in a place long enough to establish any roots. Consequently, when I moved out on my own I hadn't developed a feeling of connectedness to the community. As I got older I began to need this sense of community, and when I moved to Franklin Hills I found it among my neighbors, the City of Los Angeles, and especially from the members of the FHRA. My relations with these people has built a lasting bridge of community spirit that has further joined me with humanity.

When the Shakespeare Bridge reopens we are planning a celebration. Everyone will be invited and I will look forward to seeing you there.

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DONALD BOLTON

By Armida Bolton



The Franklin Hills median is very special to me. As a long-term resident of Franklin Hills and a former member of the FHRA Board of Directors, I have been pleased to be a participant in an important effort to beautify a part of our neighborhood. Most of all, I've been pleased that through the median project my dream of establishing an appropriate living memorial to celebrate the life of my husband, Donald R. Bolton, was realized. Before the bridge retrofitting project closed part of Franklin Avenue, I made it a point to drive past the median every day, noting the changes that were taking place as the tiny native plants that had been put in the ground in November of 1995 took hold and flourished. Often, with a quick glance at my rear-view mirror, I would slow down to catch a glimpse of "the rock" and the plaque dedicated to Donald.

The plaque says simply:

*This patch of green, once covered with asphalt
and weeds now blooms in memory of
Donald R. Bolton (1932-1991)*

*Teacher, nature lover, and resident who enjoyed
nothing more than the beauty of Franklin Hills.*

I am not sure how Donald would have reacted to being the subject of an Overview article or having his name on a public monument. Although warm and out-going, he was a very private person who shunned attention.

Donald and I moved to Franklin Hills the summer of 1968, just one year after our marriage. Here, we shared our lives with six cats and the diverse creatures that also claim

Franklin Hills as their home—blue jays, possum, raccoons, squirrels, skunks, and others. Donald enjoyed these critters plus the varied vegetation that covers our hills and loved living here. Whenever we spoke about the possibility of moving away, we could never think of a place we might prefer, so we remained.

Donald, who had been born in Santa Monica and had lived much of his life near the beach in places like San Diego and Redondo Beach, quickly adapted to life in the central city. He so loved this area and the community that when the opportunity arose to teach at the local high school, he quickly accepted. He was a public school teacher for 33 years—the last eight in the foreign language department at John Marshall High School. As an army lieutenant in his 20's, he served his country based not far from the demilitarized zone in South Korea. Before that he attended UCLA, played tennis, and sang in the Methodist Church choir.

At the median dedication ceremony two years ago, I noted that—because of exploding development and population growth—this country paves over an area the size of Delaware each year.

Donald would probably have been more than a bit embarrassed over the attention the memorial has given him, but would have been thrilled that our Franklin Hills neighbors have done something to reverse the trend of environmental degradation by converting an asphalt, half-covered eyesore into a lovely island of trees and shrubs.

I am especially happy that those who knew and loved him—his family and friends—were able to contribute toward doing this in the memory of Donald R. Bolton.

• community phones •

IMPORTANT COMMUNITY PHONE NUMBERS

ABANDONED VEHICLES: (800) 222-6366

ABC-TELEVISION:

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

HOMELESS, Food and Shelter (213) 974-1234

LOS FELIZ PUBLIC LIBRARY: (213) 913-4710

PARKING ENFORCEMENT: (818) 904-1418

POLICE: 911; Spanish: 485-4333; Asian: 893-8100

Northeast Division, 3353 San Fernando Road, LA 90065:

Main Desk (213) 485-2563

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

DOES GRAFFITI BUG YOU?

FHRA NEEDS YOUR HELP in fighting graffiti 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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The businesses that are advertising in this newsletter are charged the absolute minimum possible advertising fees. Their ads pay for the paper and any surplus supports FHRA on-going projects.

**Please support our advertisers and
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BLOOMING IN THE FRANKLIN HILLS

by Robert Page

I am very much an urban "people", a city dweller who took whatever town I was living in for granted. It never came to mind that I might participate to any real degree, or needed to, in local government. The reality was that it was too easy not to. And getting to know, let alone associate with neighbors was certainly not a given. Before we moved to Franklin Hills we were living in northeast Palos Verdes where, of course, we were considered pariahs...because we did not own a horse! Community comfort at work, indeed.

In 1975, we became owners of one of the oldest homes on the hill, a rambling multilevel structure that in many ways typifies Franklin Hills. Our home was even highlighted in "Stairway Walks of Los Angeles." Bragging? Shoot no, not at all. It was just one of the surprises and pleasures of living in this area. And one of the great pleasures in knowing that this really is a special place whether you live on Camero, perch aside Hollyvista or nest along Lyric.

If you didn't know how special it was before you became a resident, you certainly should know now. We may be an island surrounded by the denseness of L.A.'s urban sprawl, but we are city dwellers. Think about it. In how many other areas can you so easily encounter the parade of dog walkers, or stairway joggers, young couples taking their children for a walk, or older couples strolling along enjoying the gardens? How many areas have their very own bridge or garden median? How many areas have such a resident association?

Our home and ourselves are solid parts of the Franklin Hills...as is the Franklin Hills Resident's Association. As an association board member and even more as an area "sharer," I urge you to join FHRA or to renew your membership. At three cents per day it is surely affordable. The real benefit is that, if you so wish, you can easily, actively become involved in your own community. The least that will happen is for you to become aware of what the community is trying to accomplish. And, just perhaps, you will realize that participation by you can actually make a difference and that the lack of participation can also make an impact.

As a late, but enlightened bloomer I urge each resident to join FHRA and to really become a needed part of this community...your community.

PRESIDENT continued from p 2.

ecated on their yards, parked illegally and used drugs publicly. Much more about this will be outlined in a separate article. More important, however, is that our residents independently developed a coalition with residents from Silver Lake to address this problem. FHRA provided monetary support for legal counsel to address the variance issue. This issue is still ongoing and has many twists and turns. Due to the filming of a number of motion pictures and television shows, this area of Los Angeles has become *the* place to live. People attracted to the architecture, cultural activities, Griffith Park, and easy access to Downtown have come in droves to the area.

The Los Angeles media have highlighted Franklin Hills with positive articles. In addition, recently the city came through for us and established neighborhood identification signs around the Hills. As a result of many of these trends, real estate has been purchased quickly and folks who used to rent (such as myself) have found homes they can own (lucky me!). The Hotline often gets calls from out of state, asking about houses for sale or lease in Franklin Hills. In addition, older homes have been refurbished or torn down to decrease the attraction to criminal elements. FHRA hopes that for new residents, whether you are a homeowner or a renter, the entire volunteer Association can help make your neighborhood safe, beautiful and an exciting place to live.

What in the works for FHRA? Much of that depends upon you. On the dinner table the Board is busy feasting on the Bridge Retrofit Opening Day Party, a shuttle bus to bring residents to the new subway to be opened in 1998, the ever-growing median, nuisance abatement, zoning variance, police relations, to name just a few. We are in sore need of volunteers to help Board members in their completion of these projects and more. At FHRA we have always provided the latitude and funding for projects throughout the area. Our membership has hovered around 250 for the last two years and we hope to increase both the number and activity of the Association in the coming years.

I can not express my thanks enough to the Board members and volunteers who were involved in the myriad events during the last year. Franklin Hills has really tested its wings this year as a neighborhood organization and in its work with the city and residents alike. It is my hope that more residents will join in on the fun and feast on the projects which have improved our neighborhood.

Seasons Greetings

Adam M. Weisman

President, Franklin Hills Residents Association

THE CUMBERLAND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

by Rick Gomez

The Cumberland Residents' Association sprung up during April, 1997, after gang members began selling drugs in the neighborhood roughly bounded by the intersections of Myra and Cumberland on the east and Talmadge and Cumberland on the west. Since then, in response to problems near King Middle School, the Association has expanded to include residents living on the following streets: Cumberland east of Myra; Myra between Sunset Drive and Clayton; Sunset Drive; Talmadge; and Manzanita.

The name "Cumberland" merely signifies the historical origin of the Association and does not signify geographical exclusivity. The Association is a member of the Franklin Hills Residents Association. Although the Association started as a Neighborhood Watch group, it now has branched into dealing with neighborhood improvement issues as they relate to quality of life. The Cumberland Residents' Association has no elected officers or formal corporate structure. Volunteer block captains and members run the group. The Block Captains are Andrea Bronte, Rick Gomez, Betty Lacasella and Cliff Welch.

The Cumberland Residents' Association comprises all forms of residents—tenants, single family residence owners and landlords. Because we are interested in the input of all Franklin Hills residents and business owners, the Association is open to any person who is interested in quality of life issues in the southwest quadrant of Franklin Hills (roughly the area bounded by Sanborn on the east, Talmadge on the west, Fountain on the south and Prospect on the north). There are no particular membership requirements other than giving us your name, address and phone number. The Association can be thought of as a specialized unit of the Franklin Hills

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Franklin Hills/Shakespeare Bridge
Printed teal and purple on a white shirt



ORDER FORM

1 T-SHIRT/\$12 2 T-SHIRTS/\$22 3 T-SHIRTS/\$30

MAIL TO: Franklin Hills T-Shirt, P.O. Box 29122, Los Angeles, CA 90029
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 Please allow 2 to 4 weeks for delivery. T-shirts subject to availability.

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(BLUE) End Of Summer Festival	MED:	LG:	EX. LG:	
Add postage and handling:				+\$2.00
Total (Do not send cash.)				

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ APT. _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

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FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS
ASSOCIATION MEMBER?:

YES
NO

THE MEDIAN IS MATURING

by Melinda Taylor

The median planting has now been in place for two years. For the most part the plants are well established and developing into the character of their mature forms. Certain plants have not responded favorably to the conditions of the site; we have replaced those plants with others that we believe will be more likely to thrive. Others are growing more slowly than expected, and we have augmented them with other faster-growing compatible plants. I would like to share with you the following recent observations I have made about the planting in general and certain plants in particular:

The median planting was installed in November of 1995 because late fall/early winter is the optimum time to plant California native plants and many other introduced plants of a compatible nature. During this period we still have warm soils and mild temperatures, so plants can become settled and established prior to winter cold and benefit from the seasonal rains. Plants installed at this time won't produce much foliage growth, but they will be established sufficiently to grow significantly in spring without having to get established then. From a practical standpoint November is a great month for the median to have a birthday, but from an aesthetic point of view, it's another story entirely. Many of the California natives are coming out of a summer hibernation of sorts, during which their growth has been relatively to completely inactive, and they may have dropped some of their leaves. California natives look their worst at summer's end. Depending upon our September and October weather, which this year was very hot and dry, having the median's birthday party in November is equivalent to having a party for ourselves at six in the morning. We may be up, but we're likely not looking our best.

Still, there's a lot to look at, a lot of growth beginning to show. The big agave, planted near the bridge end of the slope, is sending out many underground stems. The pups of this plant are coming up in profusion, even two and three feet from the parent plant. I welcome the naturally placed pups, but even more, the underground root system which is like jute netting that we don't have to see. Both the *Salvia apiana*, or "white sage" and the *Eriogonum giganteum*, or "St Catherine's Lace" have re-seeded themselves amply, because we didn't cut off their flower stalks when the flower petals started to fade. If you look closely around the parent plants you will see many of these seedlings starting to grow and establish themselves. The *Eriogonum giganteum* frustrates me somewhat because certain of the established plants have died, or look like they may die, for no apparent reason, thus ruining the sweep of their mass in the overall planting de-

sign. If the self-sown seedlings can grow sufficiently quickly to replace their parent plants, however, I will continue to value the plant for its otherwise outstanding sculptural and colorful attributes. I hope the *Salvia apiana* plants will continue to thrive despite the fact that their leaves are being regularly picked by passersby who, I assume, recognize this plant as the source of the incense used for cleansing rooms (or objects) of negative influences, and are taking advantage of the plant's public accessibility. I wish I could ask those people "pruning" these plants to pay more attention to where they are stepping; a recently planted *S. apiana* was stepped on the other day.

Right now the *Eleagnus pungens*, or "Silverberry", is producing its inconspicuous flowers which smell like carnations, and the median air is sweet with their fragrance. This outstanding plant has so many commendable attributes—beautiful silvery brown foliage, fast, angular or spreading growth, adaptability to a variety of difficult conditions. It's hard to imagine that it occurs naturally in cool, inland mountain regions of China and Japan of ample moisture—nothing like its current environment.

All three of the grasses planted on the median have performed beautifully, and been notable accents throughout the year. *Muhlenbergia rigens*, or "Deer Grass", a clumping cool-season grass (meaning its active growth begins in the late winter or early spring), is just about to finish flowering and resume its active growth cycle with the cooler weather ahead. This California native grass has proven itself as useful and adaptable as it is beautiful—excellent for holding the slope and preventing erosion damage and heat and drought tolerant as well. We have recently augmented our original planting of this grass, adding it to two additional portions of the median as it has shown itself to be such an outstanding plant. *Bouteloua gracilis*, or "Blue Gramma Grass", the small clumping grass on the flat part of the median, is a warm season grass which will become dormant with the onset of winter and begin growing again in spring. It has been a vigorous grower in the past year, and its flowers, attached to their stems at a right angle and resembling tiny combs, have provided and continue to provide special interest. A clump of *Cortaderia selloana* 'Pumila,' "Dwarf Pampas Grass," now stands imposingly at the transition between flat area and slope, a sentinel of architectural form and prolific bloom. The manner in which all three of these grasses take on different forms, catch light, and move in the area's breezes has been a source of delight to me all year long.

I hope everyone is enjoying the growth and development

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Happy Birthday Median

By Bruce Carroll



Dessert for the Median's 2nd birthday party makes rebuilding the bridge look like a piece of cake

The Median landscaping, like any 2 year old, still needs plenty of attention. Birthday volunteers pulled up plenty of weeds.

Landscape designer Melinda Taylor instructs Marshall High's Clean & Green team on how to plant and weed



Photo by BRUCE CARROLL

"It is much more beautiful here. It makes a big difference." That's how Franklin Avenue resident Theo Welch described the impact of the median landscaping, and why he turned out, weeder in hand, to celebrate its second birthday in mid-November. The six year resident recalled what he and his neighbors used to see. "It was quite an eyesore for all the residents...It was good when the neighborhood got together to make the change."

To landscape designer and median chair Melinda Taylor the getting together is almost as important as lending a hand to mother nature. Volunteers who've come to median clean-up days, she observed, "really had a chance to talk about the neighborhood and that seemed to me as valuable as getting the weeds out of the ground...It's kind of like a community meeting where you don't have to sit in bad chairs."

In fact community outreach, to get a core cadre of median volunteers, is high on Taylor's agenda for the coming year. All those interested are encouraged to call the FHRA Community Message line 213-664-7247.

Median Notes Continued from page 8

of the median planting as much as I am. Together, all of us who have been involved in the conception, development and maintenance of this project have created something of lasting value for our neighborhood and for the city at large. It is not often that a group of people gets together, decides that visual design is important, and collectively does what is needed to realize their vision. Thank you to everyone who has contributed time, money, labor, and above all, good will towards this project.

Among those getting' down-and-dirty to spruce up the median for its birthday were members of Clean and Green. That's a city funded agency that enlists students to serve their community in various projects. Team leader Melissa Hurtado brought along seven Marshall High students: Anna, Dulce, Jesse, Joanna, Jose, Robert and Sarah. They not only got some planting pointers and weeding warnings, but Hurtado explained her group is also "learning how to plan projects, project management and how to organize community events like this." If you have a community project and need some help, Hurtado invites you to call her at Clean and Green, 213-389-3229.

She also mentioned that ever since she started working with Marshall Students, about a year and a half ago, she's noticed the "very very beautiful" median. Hurtado admitted that the other day she thought of coming to do weeding on her own but, "I don't know which are the weeds and which are the plants, so I didn't touch it."

That's a problem shared by both young and old volunteers. And, despite a bit of over aggressive weeding, Taylor feels the median is "growing in pretty well. The plants are starting to show the shapes that they will eventually have." But she says, because many of the plants are very slow growing, it will be another three years before the median fully matches the vision of her original plan.

And how will El Niño impact that plan? (No reputable publication can be printed at this time without mentioning El Niño) According to Taylor the median should weather the storm. "Because we have a combination of plants that grow very deep tap roots and very fibrous shallow surface roots we have a pretty good mat on the hill. So we are probably in good shape." And those who come out to weed the median on a regular basis will probably get in good shape too...since heavy rains mean heavy weeds.

LOS FELIZ BRANCH LIBRARY

by Pearl M. Yonezawa, Senior Librarian

The Los Feliz Branch became part of the Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL) on February 5, 1924. In the years since then it has moved to many different buildings throughout the community.

The library is currently in a leased 5000 square foot space at 1801 Hillhurst Avenue. A permanent facility at Hillhurst and Franklin Avenues is currently under construction and is scheduled to open late in 1998.

Architect Barton Phelps has designed the new 10,500 square foot building to include a meeting room, reading areas, carpeting, air-conditioning and disabled accessibility. *The Conjunction of One Hundred Wishes* by local artist Joyce Dallal will be in the main tower/skylight. There will also be a parking lot and grass areas for sitting.

Thanks to Walt Disney Company Foundation as a local sponsor, the new building will also be a "virtual electronic library" with multiple computer work stations, Internet access and software designed to help improve reading, math and study skills for children and adults.

As they do now, patrons will have access to LAPL's automated circulation system and computerized catalogue (<http://www.lapl.org>). These services allow each individual to put books on request, check their records and see what's new.

Recently moved to the library is Children's Librarian, Stella Nahapetian. Stella has organized many new activities for children: storytimes, a new reading club and an Internet group for older children. Every week there is something good going on at the Los Feliz Library.

Come and visit!

Los Feliz Library Phone: 913-4711; Fax 913-4714; E-Mail: lfeliz@lapl.org

Bridging...Continued from p. 3

Phone Update (213 area code unless otherwise specified)

Franklin Hills Residents Association:

Hot Line: 664-7427
Fax: 664-4192
email: fhra@aol.com

FHRA Bridge Info Coordinator:
Shirley Newland 665-3145

On-Site Construction Office: :660-1858

City Inspector, Dave Spangler
Contractor Superintendent, Moe Deyanat

Project Managers:

Saba Engineer 847-8930
Jim Wu 847-8934
fax: 847-8921

Contractor: TM Engineering

Matt Moetazedi
phone: 818/343-8844
fax: 818/343-8865

LA Dept. of Transportation

(traffic, detours, signs, etc.)

Vince Giron 485-4282
fax: 485-8473

LAPD, Central Traffic Division

Officer Sanchez 485-2799

LA Environmental Supervisor

(sound control/air quality)

Neil Drucker 847-8695
fax: 847-8689

Councilman John Ferraro:

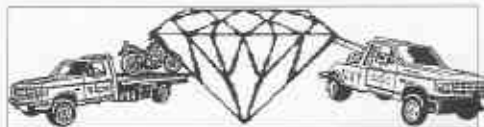
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Renee Weitzer, Chief Field Deputy and Planning Deputy

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Cumberland continued from page 7

Residence Association.

The Cumberland Residents' Association works very closely with Senior Lead Officer Sam Salazar and other members of the Los Angeles Police Department. Recently, Northeast narcotics officers have arrested gang members who were selling drugs in the area. At this juncture we can tell you that Officer Salazar and Northeast narcotics officers have coordinated a superb effort and have dramatically reduced problems in the southwest quadrant of Franklin Hills. Our members have worked hard to establish, and now enjoy, a close responsive relationship with the Northeast Division. We do not expect our relationship to change merely because Chief Parks has reassigned Senior Lead Officers to patrol duty during the coming year. There are always ways to maintain effective communication.

A formidable task facing the Cumberland Residents' Association is developing street lighting in the area surrounding King Middle School. Unfortunately, the King Middle School has turned out to be the main source of problems in the area. Importantly, it is not the students of the School who are the problem. Rather it is an outside element which uses the School and the adjacent area, usually after dark, as a facility for illicit activities. Most of the noise, trash, alcohol and drug problems can be traced to the area bordering the school. The darkness surrounding the school encourages the illicit activities.

To combat these problems, the Cumberland Residents' Association is working closely with Vince Rossini of Councilman John Ferraro's office to establish a lighting district around the school. Currently we are awaiting petition papers from the Bureau of Street Lighting. When we receive the papers, we will set up a meeting with the appropriate King Middle School administrators and the appropriate LAUSD administrators. It would be very difficult, if not impossible, to form a lighting district without cooperation from King Middle School and the LAUSD. We welcome input from anyone who can help us on this important matter.

Other issues that the Cumberland Residents' Association is addressing are street repaving and trimming trees and vegetation. Although many streets in the Franklin Hills need repaving, sections of Cumberland, Myra, Clayton, Manzanita and Bates carry high volumes of traffic from ABC, King Middle School and the hilltop areas of Franklin Hills. Effectively, these streets function as mini highways because they collect traffic from many feeder streets. Unfortunately, maintenance has not kept up with the volume of traffic they carry. There are certain trees and bushes in the area, especially on Sunset Drive, which need to be trimmed. Some of the prime drug dealing spots are afforded protection from observation by high bushes growing on the parkways and by trees which need to be trimmed back from the few existing street lights.

Anyone who would like further information on the Cumberland Residents' Association should contact Block Captain Ricardo (Rick) Gomez at (213) 661-8927.

Signs of Recognition

by Bruce Carroll



Franklin Hills sign on Prospect at Talmadge sports a blue ribbon to show community appreciation for the police

In hopes of reducing the "where's that?" factor, when local residents say they live in the Franklin Hills, the FHRA asked City Councilman John Ferraro's office if we could get some of those nifty signs that mark the entrances to neighborhoods around the city. And in the words of FHRA president Adam Weisman, "the councilman's new deputy for our area, Vince Rossini, really hustled."

You can see the results at seven locations around the Franklin Hills:

Along Talmadge St. at Franklin, Prospect, and Fountain Avenues; along Hyperion Ave. near Fountain Ave. and Entrance Drive; on Tracy St. at Hyperion Ave.; and on St. George St. at Tracy St.

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MEMORY LANE...

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as told to Bruce Carroll

"Dirt streets aren't much fun," remembers Keith Wheeler. That's surprising because everyone assumes a great affinity between young boys and dirt. But when Wheeler, now 73, was growing up at 4342 Finley Avenue, he explained, the street "dead ended two doors from our place. As you would start down the hill toward Talmadge there was a Japanese nursery... then finally they cut the street through and paved it...in the early '30's. "What was fun", he says, "was catching fish right on Finley Avenue. Across from our house there was a very large Department of Water and Power storage tank...and when they drained that tank periodically fish would come out and we'd catch them as they'd flip down the street, down the hill."

When the fish weren't flipping down Finley, Wheeler recalls Hillhurst and Vermont were where you had to go to



Keith Wheeler, young number 36, ready to carry the ball for the Barristers in 1942

catch your groceries. "The A&P was about the first major market on Vermont. They were on the west side of the street where the post office is now, and we also had Specters and Hollymont so we had three markets on Vermont...Before that we had to do most of our shopping right on Hillhurst. There was a market called Fosters and also Safeway. Those two were in the first block south of Finley on the east side of the street."

In that area, now known more for its restaurants than its markets, Wheeler observed that while Farfalla may now serve up angel hair pasta, in the late 1930's the same building served hair in different styles. "In those years it was Merle Norman's beauty shop operated by my closest friend's mother. We used to make root beer in the back room. I guess that's where the kitchen is now."

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When they tired of swigging back room root beer, according to Wheeler, Hart's Malt Shop was the big place to go after school to have a malt and a hamburger... "You could play your records right there at your individual booth." The old Hart's, across from the post office, is once again in, as the trendy Fred's 62 restaurant. You can't miss it, it's painted an eye-grating green.

Green is a color almost missing from Wheeler's recollections of his days at Marshall High from 1940-43. It seems in the post depression era, until 1942, the school "didn't have the money to plant 'grass' on the football field. So Wheeler, who played B-team quarterback, says, "they threw sawdust on the field, and they'd wet it down so it was either a quagmire or the sawdust had moved and you skinned your knees or elbows all the time." But, he observed, "those were the years you didn't sue the school board for everything...you toughed it out."

It wasn't just the players who had to tough it out, students watching the Bar-risters weren't sittin' pretty either, "When Marshall was built," explained Wheeler, "we didn't have bleachers

there. We had a hillside. It was in the depression, of course, so we sat on the dirt bank there, which was eroded quite a bit, to watch the football games."

One game, that no one would ever watch, could have put Marshall in the record books as undisputed city champs for 1942. "We had one of the best teams in Marshall history," Wheeler proudly



Keith Wheeler not only still has his '42 Marshall High yearbook, but a collection of mementos from his years attending Franklin Avenue and Thomas Starr king schools as well.

proclaimed, while admitting "Marshall hasn't had very many. We were known more as scholars than we were as athletes. But during the 1942 season we

were co-city champs. 'Co' because during wartime they wouldn't let us have a playoff with LA High." The reason, as he remembers it is, that "students couldn't get to the game because of gas rationing."

After a winning season for Marshall, Wheeler went on, with a few million other guys, to win World War II for the USA as a Navy radio man in the South Pacific. Back home again he got a master's from USC and had a long career as a real estate executive. And in retirement he's still working hard as a commissioner on the California State Seismic Safety Commission and with the Red Cross teaching corporations earthquake preparedness.

Although he deserted Finley Avenue for the valley 32 years ago, he still visits the area and recalls, "as a youngster sitting up on the top of the Franklin Bridge watching the Vitagraph Studio filming...we had a great view."

Editor's Note: Anyone else who had a great view of Franklin Hills past please share it with us. Drop us a note or call the FHRA community message line (213) 664-7247.

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Sorry, Bill; Sorry, Pete...

by Bruce Carroll

There's an old saying that charity begins at home. And what organization...with IRS 501c(3) tax exempt status...is closer to home than the FHRA?

What those numbers mean is that all donations you've made to the FHRA this year are deductible on both federal and state taxes. So if you want to send less to Bill Clinton and Pete Wilson, now would be a good time to send us a donation.

All FHRA dues paid in December will be counted for 1998 membership plus the median, disaster preparation, and library can always use your support. Why not keep the \$\$ near home. Send us some now...send Washington and Sacramento less on April 15th.

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SIGNS OF PAST TIMES

by Bruce Carroll




Parsons family and dog Sascha painting Franklin/Mayview sign post.

While most of the street signs around these parts are now mounted on perforated aluminum posts that appear to be from an Erector Set on steroids, there are still a few that, like our beloved bridge, represent a more tasteful era.

Earlier this year (photo, left) Lynn Parsons and son John, supervised by Sascha did a very good deed and scraped off decades of rust, then put a fresh coat of paint on the old sign post at their corner.

Despite looking through all the Overview archives we could not confirm that the pointy thing atop the pole was actually the finial from Kaiser Wilhelm's World War I helmet. But since there seem to be several around the neighborhood it might just be that the city picked them up cheap in the 1920's at an army surplus store.

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Restaurant Review

Caffé Capriccio:

food and fun near Franklin Hills

Something has been causing delight among local residents since 1994. *Caffe Cappricio*, owned by husband and wife team, Tony and Rosemary De Monte, is being called a neighborhood treasure by many satisfied local gourmets. Adding to the wonderful variety of restaurants on Vermont, Hillhurst and Hyperion Avenues, "Cappricio," as it's known by its habitués, has brought in a new variety of cuisine to a neighborhood becoming very well known for its high quality cooking.

In the 70's, Tony owned *Alberto* restaurant in Chicago. Moving to the Los Feliz area in 1981, he met Rosemary, the Silverlake/Los Feliz resident destined soon to become his wife. She had lived her life in the neighborhood, attending Micheltorena Street School, King Jr. High and Marshall High School. Together they opened a restaurant, *Giuseppe*, on Verdugo at Chevy Chase, in Glendale and, after a few years, they opened the original *Caffe Cappricio* in 1984 on Sunset Boulevard, near Normandy. Catering to the studio crowd in the area, they developed a clientele that today still seeks out their unique combination of quality food, service and friendliness

As you can guess by the names of all Tony's restaurants, this place is Italian. But in no way is it limited in its concepts of what should be served. The welcoming foccacia and Italian bread, baked on site and served with an olive compote, lead one directly into the announcement of a large number of nightly specials -- usually including fresh seafood, a vegetarian pasta dish or two and several chicken dishes. The extensive menu holds many delicious dishes and this writer noticed that many of the diners now know the menu well enough not to need it any longer.

There is no liquor license but you can bring your own wine -- the waiters are happy to uncork it and, if you drink lightly, there is even a place to store it until your next visit. (There is no guarantee that Tony won't raid the wine collection when in dire need for cooking wine, however.)



Owner/Chef Tony De Monte gets saucy

Says Tony: "We try to have the freshest veggies and greens. There is a balance between my pasta dishes and the various meat dishes -- not just a pasta house. Everybody seems to be happy even though it's kind of a hidden location, not easy to find. Always we will have fish, chicken and pasta dishes. Sometimes we have specials of beef. We get in 5 hours before we open to make fresh pasta and prepare for the evening ahead. The place is so small we don't have a pizza oven or enough refrigeration, so we have to buy everything fresh."

As one of the friendly faces circulating among the diners, Rosemary generates a warmth not often found in today's bigger restaurants. Knowing many of her clientele by name, she visits the tables making everyone feel at home.

Located at 2547 Hyperion, on the southwest corner at Evans St., one block south of Griffith Park Boulevard and across from Bogie's Liquors which, incidentally, has a very good selection of dinner wines. *Caffe Cappricio* opens at 5:30 p.m. daily except Tuesdays. Average bill for two: \$25-\$30.

Reviewed by Don Waldrop

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Caffe Capriccio Chef/Owner Tony De Monte offers a recipe for you to try at home:

BANANA SQUASH SOUP

3 lbs. banana squash -- skinned and diced
 1/2 lb. potatoes -- skinned and diced
 1 medium onion -- chopped
 3 tbsp butter
 olive oil
 1 cup whipping cream
 1 tsp salt & 1/2 tsp white pepper (or to taste)

- Place squash and potatoes in a pot, cover with 1" of water and boil for 15 minutes.
- Sauté onion in 3 tbsp butter until translucent. Add to pot.
- Cook all until vegetables are soft. (They will break when mashed with back of a spoon.)
- Puree in food processor.
- Place back in pot. Add whipping cream, salt and pepper, and simmer for about 20 minutes.
- Watch the evaporation so that it doesn't become too thick. (Should coat back of a spoon thickly.)
- Ladle into individual bowls. *Serves 6.*



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Garbage In...Garbage Out

By Bruce Carroll

While all too much of the mail most of us receive winds up emptying our bank accounts or filling our trash cans, at the FHRA we do take your letters seriously. So when Lothar Von Schoenborn wrote, "Real estate agents will tell you nothing is more blight inducing, reduces property values and reduces the overall aesthetics of the area than trash barrels left curbside or in front yards." we decided to investigate.

Von Schoenborn estimates, "Twenty percent of the households seem to leave trash barrels out all week long." From a few quick random counts it would seem his estimate is probably on the low side. He goes on to speculate on who the culprits might be, "I don't know if they are new to the neighborhood or renters."

I would speculate that about a third of those reading this know who you are, that you've lived in the area a long time, and that since the advent of the 60 gallon green and black wheeled cans you've struggled with them...and where to put them.

That struggle is likely to get at least 1/3 harder early in the new year...although recycling will get a whole lot easier. By April the tiny yellow bins will be history, replaced by huge blue recycling barrels. According to Customer Relations Manager Daniel Hackney, the Bureau of Sanitation has re-



Diane Yates built an enclosure for her trash cans

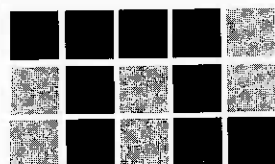
cycled its thinking. "The reason we have now chosen the 90 gallon blue containers as standard is simply to send the positive environmental message that, hey, we've done the wrong thing the past 5-7 years because we've given you a tiny little recycling container that doesn't really offer enough capacity for most people to participate."

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In blue barrel test neighborhoods the city has found a 150% increase in recycling. In fact, most people have more recyclables for the blue barrel than trash for the black. As Hackney put it, "even though they seem really huge when they first come out, as people learn, wow! boy! a lot of things really are recyclable now that we understand it...literally every piece of paper in my house that's not a hygiene item or contaminated by food waste can now go into the container and that ranges from a little yellow post-it note to a full sized VCR box, for example."

While accentuating the positives of the blue barrels Hackney also pointed out they'll eliminate a lot of "negatives of the yellow bins...scavengers, it rains and all the papers get wet, you have to sort, you have to bundle paper, you have to bag paper, items get thrown into the yellow bin that are not accepted by our drivers and so the burden falls back to the homeowner who actually has to drag stuff back in etc. etc. etc. In the new blue program everything is going to be put in together. The whole movement of the program is toward customer convenience."

Except for some hillside dwellers. There the convenience of the big blue barrels might well be outweighed by the inconvenience, or impossibility of dragging it...plus its black and green ancestors out of sight for the 140 hours a week when they have no business in front of your house.

According to Bureau of Sanitation spokesman David Mays there are only 28 hours a week when cans can

legally be at the curb. "The rules and regs say, based on city ordinance, that you set out trash no earlier than 6 p.m. the evening before collection. You should remove your empty barrels no later than 8 p.m. following collection." These rules, he explained, are enforced by the Bureau of Street Maintenance, usually only after complaints. If you ignore official warnings, says Mays, "as a final resort they can take your trash cans and you won't have trash service...it's done very rarely."

Lest you forget these times, each of the new blue cans will have the information right on it. Hackney acknowledged that most "hillside communities would have probably voted for a deep brown rather than the blue, if they'd had the choice, because it blends into the landscape and looks a little more environmentally friendly." Marshall High knows that's true and has camouflaged campus trash cans as dark brown tree stumps that fit right in on the school lawns.

Hackney even shot down my suggestion that if we are stuck with blue

barrels...because it is the international recycling color...then why not make them attractive...perhaps sky blue with a few clouds, or have surfers riding blue waves on them. It is LA after all. To that he said, "it's a little late." The cans are already ordered.

But they are not all "gargantuan" 90 gallon behemoths. And after Hackney toured the Franklin Hills, he knows we have special storage problems. He now says he has no problem giving a blanket exemption for the Franklin Hills so that you're going to get no bigger than the 60 as a standard. But if you want a 90 gallon or can only handle the 30 gallon, favored by many senior citizens, Hackney has given the FHRA some special request forms. (Just call us at 664-7247) The trouble with the small containers, he pointed out, is that it's very hard to recycle cardboard boxes in them. As to the space savings of the 60 over the 90 according to Hackney "It's debatable what kind of advantage that really serves because the 90 gallon container is only one inch wider, two inches taller and 6 inches deeper...the footprint

Continued to p. 23

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COMMUNITY-POLICE ADVISORY BOARD

by Carol Skinner

For nearly three years I have been attending Community-Police Advisory Board meetings at North-East division. Until recently, Adam Weisman, the president of FHRA, had been the representative of Franklin Hills, and I the alternate. Now I am the C-PAB member, and Bob Kerr (another FHRA member and community activist) is the alternate. This seems like a good procedure for us: the alternate becomes the member and finds a new alternate. If we can continue with this; we will eventually have a number of residents (not just one or two) who are acquainted with C-PAB and its benefits, and, with the obligations of members.

And what are the benefits and obligations? I see the benefits, personal and community wide, as falling into three areas: Acquaintance; Communication Out, and Communication In.

Obligations of members: Attendance at one meeting per month at LAPD-NorthEast Division (on San Fernando Road); report to the CPAB co-chairs about community activities, other events as they arise; the opportunity to attend events in other, surrounding, communities and enjoy & learn from them.

Acquaintance: Each CPAB in the LAPD meets regularly at the local police station with staff members of that division; and one member and one alternate from each of the communities in that jurisdiction. In our case; that means Captain Louis Gray, Jr., the Commander of North East; Lt. Raul Vega, chief of Detectives; the Community Relations officers; and other staff, such as the Senior Lead Officers, or on occasion people from traffic, or other police specializations. This in itself would be worth one evening a month; but that is only the (official) beginning. The membership in Northeast includes the following areas: Atwater (two divisions), East Hollywood, Franklin Hills, Griffith Park (we do not have any coyotes on the board as yet), Los Feliz, Silver Lake (two divi-

sions), Cypress Park, Highland Park and Mt Washington.

The people willing to spend a number of hours each month on this (and their local community boards) are very interesting people, so that becoming acquainted with them becomes a personal 'reward' for the time invested. They are also very knowledgeable about both blessings and hardships in their communities. Because of this connection we know who the people are "next door" who were working to deal with a zoning

problem; and they know who we are. In any case; whether it's a matter affecting a large number of residents, or a minor matter annoying just a few; every community organization in this corner of the city knows who to call if there's a problem on the block.

Communication Out from the community: Since I have become the CPAB member for Franklin Hills, there have been three (which turned out to really be two) problems which were brought to my attention by residents. One of these

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is alluded to in the report of the very successful Cumberland Association. I was able to follow one or more of the communications channels available to me: I can (and do) call the Senior Lead Officer and ask for help, I can call the Commander, and I can bring the problem up for discussion at the next CPAB meeting; and have not only the attention of the professional law enforcement folks, but advice from those other community reps who may have already invented that particular wheel. I urge all Franklin Hills residents to keep me informed about any issue which you believe relates to law enforcement. Of course call Northeast yourself about any problem; but please let me know too so that I can monitor the problem: (213) 662-1775.

Communication In to the community from the police: Regularly, at each meeting, an analyst presents us with the crime statistics in Northeast for the time period immediately preceding the briefing. Happily, the trend has been steadily downward to a smaller number of crimes over the past year or so (Here, as in the rest of the US.) Our particular hillsides have primarily property-related crimes, very rarely crimes against persons. Those which do occur are no less terrible; the point is that we are safer here than in many other areas of the city. Sometimes, as now, there is information available to CPAB which supplements information made available by media to the public in general. At this moment in time many

community groups are expressing concern about Chief Parks' intention to put SLO's back in cars, and assign them to function as training officers; because they fear that this will erode the healthy start towards community-police relationships which is already in place. The chief's intention, as I understand it, is that rather than have about 100-200 SLO's involved with community policing; they as training officers will assist in the effort to involve all officers in the community. Reduced to the most simplistic terms, this may mean something like: If you, as a citizen approach or are approached by a police officer in this community; there will be a very good chance that the officer is someone you have already met and spoken with, and to whom you can relate as part of our community. Of course, our FHRA meetings offer an excellent opportunity to meet the officers who work in our neighborhood.

If any of you, as community members, would be interested to learn at first hand more about CPAB; you are very welcome to join me as a guest at any meeting. Give me a call and I will tell you the day and time of the meeting; and clear you as a guest (sometimes the seating capacity of the meeting room has been seriously overstrained). I believe that you will be interested in the information provided and enjoy the people present.

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NEIGHBORHOOD WORKS TO FLUSH BASIC PLUMBING

by Phil Lee and Bruce Carroll

An issue that has been simmering in several neighborhoods for some time recently boiled over to the front page when the City Council voted to ignore zoning rules and approve a sexual encounter club known as The Barracks. While the fact that The Barracks was well within 500 feet of peoples' homes didn't trouble the narrow council majority, it did trouble Mayor Riordan who vetoed the approval for the East Hollywood club.

Last summer the Franklin Hills/Silver Lake Residents Coalition won a victory, on paper at least, in a similar case. On July 15, 1997 the Los Angeles Board of Zoning Appeals voted unanimously to grant a neighborhood appeal and deny variances that would have allowed Basic Plumbing, a sexual encounter club at 1924 Hyperion Avenue, to operate within 500 feet of residential properties. Over 80% of the properties within 500 feet of Basic Plumbing are residential and the public hearing brought to a conclusion the neighborhood effort that resulted in over 430 petition signatures as well as the support of the Franklin Hills Residents Association, The Silver Lake Residents Association, the Los Feliz Improvement Association, the Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety, LAPD Vice, and City Councilman John Ferraro's 4th District Office.

Basic Plumbing had been operating illegally for more than four years and was proven at the hearing to contribute to late-night noise disturbance, public lewd-conduct and parking shortages on residential streets. Basic Plumbing had been used exclusively as a sexual encounter club in violation of its lease as an art gallery. Remodeling, to close off windows and provide private cubicles, had all been done without city building permits and without building code inspection. Only after Basic Plumbing had been cited for these and other violations did its owners begin the process to obtain legal status.

Overwhelming testimony by both gay and straight residents of Franklin Hills and Silver Lake convinced The Board of Zoning Appeals that the illegal land use of Basic Plumbing was incompatible with the quality of life in the neighborhood and Basic Plumbing was ordered to cease its operation.

Despite that order to close, the club continued to operate and has run ads for events through New Years Eve. City Councilman John Ferraro's Office volunteered its assistance to find a suitable location for Basic Plumbing that would not be in violation of the municipal code. The councilman's chief planning deputy, Renee Weitzer, testified that such properties existed within the

4th district and that her office would assist in obtaining such a location.

The club's response has been to continue to flaunt the law despite charges being filed by the city. Councilman Ferraro's office has also been trying to explore with the City Attorney's office swifter ways to rid the neighborhood of a nuisance. Many hope that Mayor Riordan's veto in The Barracks case will be heard as the signal starting a race by all city agencies to fulfill the promise the city has made to its residents through its zoning rules: to uphold the law and, as the Mayor put it, to listen to the wishes of the community for a quiet, safe and wholesome neighborhood.




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GARBAGE, continued from p. 19

is identical at the very bottom. So footprint-wise it makes no difference."

Some residents, like Diane Yates, on Mayview just past Franklin, tried to make a difference. She constructed a lattice can corral but when the big blues come, she'll have the garbage can blues again. Her garbage cans will no longer fit, so they'll likely be neither out of sight, nor out of mind. Even if you request all three cans...blue, green, and black...in the 30 gallon size they will still take up more room than the two 60 gallon cans you have now. It must be the new math that makes $3 \times 30 = 2 \times 60$. One suggestion that Hackney made, is to downsize your black can to 30 gallons and try the 60 for recycling.

Von Schoenborn's letter concluded by asking that we "please put a short article in the Franklin Hills Newsletter reminding area residents of the city's ordinance and requesting the removal of trash barrels." Now you've read the article. I hope it prods everyone to make the extra effort to improve appearances. And I apologize for it's lack of shortness. Maybe that's why we need the big blue barrels.

In Hackney's view the blue cans will turn a currently

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costly recycling program into one that pays for itself through higher income and lower landfill fees. He feels, "Most Angelenos from A-Z should be standing and applauding this new program." But my guess is that here in the hills many of us will be standing and just wringing our hands...perhaps wishing for a seance with Houdini who might conjure up a way to make those ugly cans disappear...except for Thursday morning.

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

MetroRail

KISS AND GO: Our Link to New Transportation?

by Marcelle Zonta

By this time everyone has heard, our local Red Line subway will open by the end of 1998, a little over a year from now. Our closest subway station itself is at Sunset and Vermont, which makes it a bit of a hike from the hills and dells to its entrance.

The question then becomes how do we, who have paid our fair share for this form of transit, get to utilize it since there is no provision made for parking? To compensate for this lack of parking space, they have installed off-loading for cars and buses, what they euphemistically call "Kiss and Go."

Realizing that many of us would want to use the train to get to our jobs in the city and that we would also wish to avoid using our cars, the logical solu-

tion is some form of DASH shuttle bus that would travel about the area in a loop. The route of this bus is being decided right now but as yet, nothing is written in stone. In other words, there is still time for the residents of Franklin Hills who see themselves becoming future subway passengers to give input on the DASH route.

To this end, members of the Board of FHRA have met with a representative of the Metropolitan Transit Authority to discuss viable routes that can be practical for bus and convenient for residents. This would mean frequent service, especially during rush hour, and convenient stops not too far from our houses. My preliminary meetings have been quite fruitful and the MTA repre-

sentative is eager to provide appropriate service for the area.

If there is sufficient interest shown, we could expand this into a public meeting to make suggestions as to how we should like to see transportation to the train handled.

Wouldn't it be nice to get on the train with no worry of parking or getting stuck in traffic? Hopefully, compared to the regular bus system, the Dashes will be more frequent, more dependable and will stick a regular schedule. Who knows? One can only hope.

I intend to stay on top of this and let anyone who is interested know what is happening. If you have personal input on this issue, please call the FHRA Hotline: (213) 664-7247



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