

OVERVIEW



Photo by Bruce Carroll

The back side of the library may not look like much in this photo from late October but architect Barton Phelps says when the rest of the trees and landscaping are added this will be the buildings' "best side".

STAR DONATES COMPUTER CENTER

by Pearl Yonezawa, Senior Librarian

Two exciting events are helping the library as we move toward opening in the new building in early 1999 (no date set as of press time).

A Los Feliz Library patron, movie star Leonardo DiCaprio has donated \$35,000 for a state-of-the-art computer center. The computers & programs will help patrons improve their math, reading, language, computer & study skills. The new library building is on the former

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Interior (right) and exterior of almost completed Los Feliz library

LOS FELIZ LIBRARY OPENING AT LAST!

Library architect Barton Phelps, center, stands below one of the light chambers in the main reading room while project architect David Haggerty, left, explains the plan to visiting architects.



Photo by Bruce Carroll

ALMOST ONE FOR THE BOOKS

by Bruce Carroll

"The approach from the Franklin Hills is the best." That's architect Barton Phelps' view as his design for our Los Feliz Branch library nears reality. The library has a dual personality design that stems, he explained, from competing community concepts... "very urban on one side [Hillhurst] suburban on the other...for hill dwellers who live on curvy streets off the grid."

Phelps says library patrons will "get out of their car and go through a nice area." An area that he's transforming from a mere parking lot into a woodsy garden with several California Live Oaks (the state tree) wisteria vines climbing to the roof and

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LOS FELIZ BRANCH TO OPEN SOON

By Charley M. Mims

The contractor hopes to complete work on our Los Feliz Branch of the Los Angeles Public Library by the end of this year! They are working on the parking lot area and the interior finish now. Work

A well-founded rumour in the community says that Titanic star Leonardo DiCaprio plans to attend at least one of the opening events!

on the landscaping will start next. The architect is mulling over the right paint color for the exterior finish of our library to make sure it complements his wonderful design.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT



Adam M. Weisman
President

Seasons Greetings! As the year inches toward the end it is a pleasure to think back about the goals and challenges met by your Franklin Hills Residents' Association. From the start of the year FHRA has worked very hard developing creative events and helping improve our wonderful neighborhood. Since the completion of the Shakespeare Bridge a committee has been working with city officials to complete its restoration. The latter have informed FHRA that additional construction will be necessary to maintain the historical features. This work should begin during early 1999, and we hope will not cause more than one month of a single lane road. After this work is completed a committee will turn its sights to the purchase of two benches along the ends. It was nice to see the bridge pictured in the October issue of Sunset magazine. It was also nice to be invited to the Los Angeles Conservancy 20th Anniversary Festival which recognizes organizations involved in the historical preservation of Southern California. With the help of the students of *Lycée International de Los Angeles* (LILA—The French American Schools of Southern California) holiday lighting will add some seasonal elegance to our bridge.

Currently board members and committees are busy with crime prevention, the Hillside Federation, King Middle School landscape restoration, LILA, the Hyperion Corridor, City Charter, traffic congestion, street fairs, parking and the Franklin Avenue Median. New projects and interests include the reopening of the Los Feliz Public Library, Red Line Shuttle Service and Griffith Observatory renovation. Of course aside from the standing committees, the board is always concerned to address immediate neighborhood concerns. Whether it is a tree, car, pet, skunk, or criminal event, we enjoy tackling each issue and would be glad to gain some new volunteers. The FHRA Hot Line (323-664-7247) always presents us with new challenges, which lead to new resources or linkages with City services.

Through the work of board and area volunteers, FHRA has been faced with extremely LARGE projects coupled with small (in number) volunteer committees. The projects (i.e. the Bridge Party, the median, this newsletter, etc.) have been successful and, not surprisingly, some volunteers burn out and need a sabbatical. More hands to share the project would relieve this problem. They (projects) are not only useful, they are interesting to do, and meetings are actually fun! I hope that many of you readers will make a New Year's resolution to devote some time to your community through FHRA. Big or small, each project is important to us, and you *can* make a difference.

As we end the tax year, please consider FHRA among your tax deductible contributions. Many dues-paying members have given extra donations (Wow! Thank you!) There are an estimated 2000 separate residential units within our boundaries and only a fraction send in dues. This year the fraction is smaller than usual, and the outgo larger (due mostly to the Bridge party). We regard everyone who lives on the hill as a member, and are interested in all of your interest. All we ask is \$10 per person or \$20 per family. Please help us maintain an ongoing donation pool to create projects and events. Another way each active member can help is to get at least one neighbor to join. We have many new residents have moved here. Let -them know about FHRA.

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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 90029*

"OLD LA" STILL AN OXYMORON

By Bruce Carroll

On October 11th an official FHRA delegation attended a birthday party at the LA Coliseum. But it wasn't for the Coliseum's 75th birthday. It seems when you get that far up in years many of your old friends...Rams, Raiders, etc...have moved on.

This was a party for the Los Angeles Conservancy whose mission is to see that old buildings like the Coliseum do not have to move on or get mowed down. Dedicated to preserving LA's architectural history, the Conservancy invited the FHRA, and 29 other local groups that help protect our past, to celebrate The Conservancy's 20 years of hard work. Among the treasures they've saved are St. Vibiana's Cathedral, the Bullocks Wilshire Tower, the art deco May Company also on Wilshire and even the oldest living McDonalds...it's been in Downey for 45 years.

The Conservancy provided each group a table, 2 chairs, and a little bit of shade at the peristyle end of the Coliseum...from there we were on our own. Before we were even finished setting up FHRA-land, event organizer Ken Bernstein, the Conservancy's director of Preservation Issues, came by and pointed out that we had the "most ambitious" display and if they'd been giving out awards we would have won.

FHRA President Adam Weisman brought our large stock of FHRA T-shirts in 3 styles and many sizes.

Treasurer Bruce Carroll, hoping to make a few bucks for the FHRA, set up our display of old area photos dating back to 1917. And Median chair Shirley Newland brought her TV/VCR so we could show the official FHRA tape of Bridge Party '98 and Median Magic.

While both sales and crowds were quite modest, it was a good day to meet leaders of other community groups, exchange ideas and tour the Coliseum. I found out the locker room has no lockers. It was also a chance to have a big bite of birthday cake in honor of the organization that works hard to keep bulldozers from taking big bites of old LA.

Editor's note...if you are interested in joining, or learning more, you can contact:
The Los Angeles Conservancy
523 W. 6th St. #1216, Los Angeles, CA 90014.
213-623-2489



Bruce Carroll, Adam Weisman & Shirley Newland in their little bit of shade at the Coliseum Peristyle



By Shirley Newland

I once lived in a house that was intended to be a temporary residence. Except for a few shrubs and a spotty lawn, the yard was bare. I love to garden but, planning to be there for only a few months, I just tended to the plants that were there and replaced a few rose bushes that had fallen to the neglect of previous tenants. Seven years later I was still there and still basically looking at a dirt patch.

I learned several lessons from that experience, one being to not let life pass me by anymore. I may start something that turns out to be not so worth while, but at least I tried. If I get involved with something that does not last very long, like the Shakespeare Bridge retrofitting project, I am glad to have been a part of it while it did last. And if a project endures I get to enjoy it every day.

The Franklin Avenue median is an enduring project that, like my yard, was starting to fall to neglect. Unlike past experience, I did not let this go by the wayside. A maintenance committee was formed to revive the median. I got a little carried away at first and made some poor choices of plants and ended up bringing them home to nurse back to health in a more suitable environment. Melinda Taylor who designed the median selected native California plants that can withstand the harsh exposure they get all day and night long. With her ongoing commitment to the original design, Melinda is guiding the committee to restore the median to its intended splendor of natural colors and beauty.

Under this precept, the median will be around for many years. The purpose of the maintenance committee is to involve local residents for its perpetual care. If you are interested in learning the proper care of native California plants and have the time to spare call the hotline today. One person can do a lot in just two hours. For anyone with a love for gardening this is a great way of contributing to the community and sharing the information with neighbors to ensure the care of the median for many years to come.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

In closing, it has been a great pleasure and honor to work in the management of this Association. The responsibilities and duties have been very rewarding. With established committees and new projects, there is enough work and fun to keep us busy for years. And, with the help of your donations and active membership, Franklin Hills Residents Association will continue to provide dependable and quality service.

Happy New Year

Adam M. Weisman
President,
Franklin Hills Residents Association

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COMPUTER CENTER

site of the DiCaprio family home where Leonardo lived during his teenage years. Since the family used the library they wanted to give something back to the community.

Another exiting project is SKYLIGHT'S: LIGHTING: THE WAY TO READING IN OUR COMMUNITY. This special book drive allows you purchase a tax deductible hardcover book from Skylight Books for a 10% discount to donate to the library. Books will have a *Skylights Project* bookplate and Skylight Books will display an ornament for each donation on the tree in the store. Details about the SKYLIGHTS PROJECT are available at Skylight Books, 1818 N. Vermont Ave. and at the Los Feliz Branch Library at 1801 Hillhurst Ave.



Cafe Los Feliz

2118 Hillhurst, in the Los Feliz area
(at the former location of La Conversation)
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• community phones •

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Revised 11/98; Thanks to C-PAB for updated info

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ABC-TELEVISION:

Security: (310) 557-5354.

ALARM PERMITS (323)485-2931

ANIMAL REGULATION (323) 485-5765

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BRIGHT LIGHTS Streetlight repair (800) 303-5267

BUILDING & SAFETY VIOLATIONS: (323)237- 0685

COUNCILMAN JOHN FERRARO, 4th District-

(323) 485-3337

Room M-30, City Hall, 200 Spring St., L.A. 90012

ENVIRONMENTAL:

Recycling: (800)-CITYSAN

Rebate for Ultra Low Flush Toilet installation.

(323) 481-5800; (800) 722-1122

Rebate for Super Efficient Gas Water Heater.

(800) 852-9820

Hazardous Waste Hotline (323) 237-1634

Operation Clean Sweep (323) 237-1797

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Emergency 911;

Non-emergency: 485-6185.

HOMELESS, Food and Shelter (323) 974-1234

INFO LINE (L.A. County Referral Service) (213) 686-0950

LOS FELIZ PUBLIC LIBRARY: (323) 913-4710

NEIGHBOR DISPUTE: (323) 485-8324

PARKING ENFORCEMENT: (213)485-4184

POLICE: EMERGENCY 911;

Spanish: (323) 485-4333; Asian: (323) 893-8100

Northeast Division, 3353 San Fernando Road, LA 90065:

ADULT/WOMEN ABUSE (800) 978-3600

Community Relations (323) 485-2548

GANG PROBLEMS: (323) 485-7538

GRAFFITI : (323) 237-0511

LAPD ONLINE: <http://www.lapd.org>

Main Desk (323) 485-2563

Reports: (323) 485-4193

Sr. Lead Officer Al Polehonki (323) 485-4079

Sr. Lead Officer Sam Salazar: (323) 847-3135

Traffic Enforcement (Speeding) (323) 485-2799

Los Feliz Outpost: 1965 Hillhurst Ave. (323) 913-4682

POISON CONTROL (800) 777-6476

RAPE HOTLINE (213) 392-8381

RESTRAINING ORDER (213) 974-5587

STREET SERVICES: (800) 996-2489

TRASH RECEPTACLE INFO: (800) 248-9726

BULK ITEM REMOVAL (800)773-2489

MISSED PICK-UP (800) 773-2489

TREE TRIMMING (Hazards)(800) 996-2489

WATER & POWER: (323) 485-4211

WE TIP (Anonymous crime tips) (800) 873-7283

FRANKLIN FOTOS

As you have no doubt noticed, the staff 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!

FHRA Hotline: 664-7247

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Traveling to other areas to shop is troublesome now that the population and traffic have increased so much.

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.

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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

... ONE FOR THE BOOKS

boulders along the path, some even inside the building. Because the site was somewhat larger than needed for the 10,500 square foot building, he was able to create his mini park plus 20% more parking spaces than required.

But a library is primarily for parking books and the butts of those reading them, and here Phelps' creation seems to excel. Having watched the construction since ground breaking, but only seeing the outside, I was thrilled when I walked through the doors. I audibly exclaimed to myself, "it's beautiful."

What drew my unaccustomed compliment was the rich look of the redwood lined columns and walls which cry out for curling up with a good book. Only the lack of any books yet, or a place to curl up other than the very dusty floor kept me looking around. Phelps assured me that not only was the redwood of the wall "not from old growth trees," but there will be tables and chairs in the center of the long reading room and sofa like comfortable furniture at the south end. The stacks for books will run perpendicular to the wall on the Hillhurst side and the books will aid the thick walls in providing that essential library element, quiet.

Another essential library element is light, and Phelps' design expresses his belief that on any day in southern California you should be able to "read a book without turning on a light." To provide that constant light, the ceiling of the main room is made up of six "light chambers"...sort of skylights on steroids...that bring in light from east, west and above, then distribute it evenly on the reading area below. The last of the "light chambers" is the distinctive corner of the building at Franklin and Hillhurst.

It was originally going to be an area for young people where, in Phelps' planning, "kids would want to come here to see and be seen and this would be kind of a neighborhood sort of hang-out." But that plan has changed. The glassed-in area which Phelps refers to as "a lantern at night" is now set to attract all ages; he says, "I think it was decided it was too good."

The kids do have a homework center along the Franklin side, plus a large children's library in the southeast corner of the building. And there is a very special "clearing in the woods" storytelling room that seems to be one of Phelps' favorite places. There he tells of performing architectural magic by turning a square room into a round room and then, by placing manzanita branches overhead and a tree trunk at the door, hoping to turn it into not a room at all.

The building also has a special place for community meetings with a capacity of about 70. In order to get that many folks you'll probably need refreshments and there is even a little kitchen to take care of that chore. The room, on the northeast corner, has its own entrance so it can be used when the library is closed.



Architect Barton Phelps explains the illusion of turning a square room into a round one that with the addition of manzanita branches will become a clearing in the woods

Community input was obviously very important to Phelps who pointed out that while the area is renowned for its works by icons of modern architecture Wright, Shindler, Neutra, Lautner, "There were people in the neighborhood who kept saying 'Spanish Colonial, Spanish colonial. It must be Spanish Colonial' so we said what is Spanish Colonial. It's thick walls. It's light and shade...we said we could do that." But with a modern interpretation.

Phelps also took the opportunity to point out that the green and brown tiles that embellish the window wells along Hillhurst were, you guessed it, "made in Spain." The windows, incidentally, are angled so that library patrons who chance to glance away from the printed page will have their gaze drawn to the Griffith Observatory...albeit somewhat marred by mini-mall signs and utility wires.

Perhaps the unsightly aspects of the view will be softened by the wisteria vines which, if they do their part, will be creeping up guide wires toward the metal poles that extend from the Hillhurst facade. Those poles will also carry big metal letters saying "Los Angeles Public Library."

While the project is several months behind schedule, and some have expressed frustration with the slow pace of the work, it does look like we are going to get a really special place. It has already won at least one award. It will be a library that has both the beauty and importance to command attention plus the functionality and comfort that will make us want to keep coming back.

And coming back will be easy for FHRAers. According to project architect David Haggerty the driveway you see on the Franklin side is "just an entrance...that's for the people from Franklin Hills to be able to enter." Thanks...

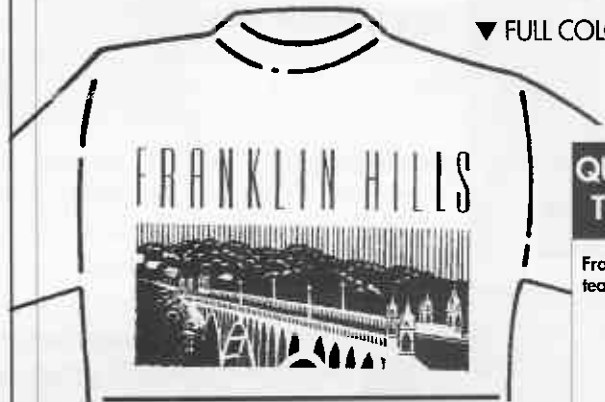
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LIBRARY OPENING

On October 27, 1998, David Moss, President of Friends of Los Feliz Branch Library, along with Marilyn Bush of Los Feliz Improvement Association and Charley Mims of the Franklin Hills Residents Association met with Councilmember, John Ferraro, members of his staff, and Lucy McCoy, President of the Los Angeles Library Commission to discuss the opening of our library. Leaders of our community have been meeting to decide how o support can best be generated for our library. A committee chaired by David Moss has agreed to host a pre-opening fundraiser at the library to show the commitment of all the neighbors toward the success of the Los Feliz Branch Library. John Ferraro stated his strong support for our communities' effort to support our new library and to work with us and the Library Department to make our fundraiser and the library opening a premier community event for 1999! Lucy McCoy pledged to work with our committee to make the opening a community event.

We plan on an opening on a Sunday in early February, with a preview fundraising dinner the Saturday night before the opening. Marilyn Bush has volunteered to head the fundraiser subcommittee and will need all of our support throughout the community to assure its success. So save your post holiday dollars for a grand local cause. From our comfortable families to those of us who are struggling financially, our library brings us all together. The opening will be a great time to once more demonstrate our commitment to supporting a great local library, our own Los Feliz Branch! We will have another subcommittee to plan our opening Please contact the FHRA Hotline to volunteer your help and expertise. Our own Don Waldrop has volunteered to work on the committee and, as a reminder, Don chaired our wildly successful Shakespeare Bridge re-opening! So expect another great time at this major community event early in 1999.

THE CLASSIC BRIDGE T-SHIRT IS NOW IN FULL COLOR



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ORIGINAL DESIGNS:
 1 for \$12, 2 for \$22, 3 for \$30

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FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION MEMBER?: YES NO

ROUNDUP OF RECENT RESTAURANTS

by Dave Hall.



The Los Feliz area has been blessed with a number of new restaurants within the last year or so -- too many for this reviewer to visit without a real bankroll like the one provided by the L.A. Times for its restaurant reviewer. (hint, hint.)

Normally when restaurants are reviewed they are visited numerous times, so that one bad day doesn't spoil a restaurant's reputation. However, in this case, even though I have specialized only on the newer restaurants of Hillhurst and Vermont Avenues, this was impossible. Therefore, I want to give a preliminary review of the few new restaurants that I was able to get to multiple times and then just list the important information on some of the other ones. This is by no means a complete listing of all the new restaurants in the area and the reader should keep in mind that there are many really fine ones that have been here for years and are wonderful to visit.

Listed in alphabetical order:

Café Los Feliz – (323) 664-7111. 2118 Hillhurst Avenue, where La Conversation once was. Offering Armenian specialties, sandwiches, French pastries, custom-made cakes. They open for lunch at 11 am. Brunch on the weekends, breakfast every day. Limited seating with indoors and sidewalk tables.

The Coffee Bean – 2281 Hillhurst Avenue. (323) 913-3457. Another in the well-known chain, excellent, the main competitor to Starbucks. The Coffee Bean stocks an interesting range of coffees, takeouts & sweets. A large outdoor seating area with umbrella; a great meeting place! Open M-F at 6:30 am, Sat-Sun at 7:00. Close M-Th. at 11, F-Sat at 12 am, Sun at 11.

The Electric Lotus – 4656 Franklin Ave., next to the Seven-Eleven. (323) 953-0040. Finally, an Indian restaurant to call our own, featuring delicious northern Indian food, carefully prepared. Its location, at Vermont and Franklin, makes it perfect for a pre-movie meal. A little noisy, with Indian pop/rock playing on a hi-fi, it features booth seating in a storefront ambiance, excellent service and wonderful food.



Home Los Feliz – 1760 Hillhurst Avenue. (323) 655-HOME. Fax: (323) 669-0241. With its arching sign, proclaiming "There's No Place Like Home," this new restaurant has great potential. Arguably the place with the most beautiful and inviting outdoor patio, Home has extensive menus for breakfast (18+ dishes) and lunch (20 dishes plus salads) but, as of this writing, has added only a few specials to fill out the menu for dinner. The vegetarian burrito is excellent as are the wraps and the omelettes. The front patio has about 20 tables and there are a smaller number of tables in the redecorated interior dining room. An interesting idea is the TV room, with the plush sofa and lamps, which makes waiting for a table more than bearable.

Unfortunately, Home has a major flaw that seems to be unaddressed at this writing. The only non-smoking area is indoors, and after this writer finished his meals on the patio, he left feeling as if he had smoked an entire



pack of cigarettes during the meal! Upon inquiry, he was told that there were no plans to reserve a part of the patio area for non-smokers, banishing them to eating indoors only. It appears that Home has strong appeal to the adamant smoking crowd and that many of its owners and staff are active smokers. If inhaling second-hand smoke while you eat doesn't appeal to you, Home is not for you. But it provides a wonderful, totally unrestricted play space for smokers.



The Mustard Seed Café – 1948 Hillhurst Avenue. (323) 660-0670. This is an excellent little café with both indoor and sidewalk seating, a fine menu that includes takeout, and careful, friendly service. The menu includes interesting salads and entrees, with some vegetarian dishes as well as unusual meat dishes and some wonderful desserts. The food ranges from a Chipotle Chicken Wrap through Chicken Quesadillas to a lovely Grilled Vegetarian Sandwich, with Portobello mushrooms. Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner (8 am to 8 pm, Sundays til 5 pm), although one night we arrived at 7 pm and they were closing. A great place for a relaxing, delicious meal.

More to come, next issue.

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

*Thank you for your patronage
and support during 1998.*

*It is always my pleasure to
serve you. Let's work together
again in 1999.*

*Your Premier Franklin Hills Realtor,
Robert Kalin*



Robert Kalin
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1998 Listings and Sales:

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1707 Micheltorena, #208 • 2257 Earl • 3710 Brilliant Drive
1776 Griffith Park Blvd., #5 • 1716 Westerly Terrace
4567 Mont Eagle Place • 2104 Roselin Place
2306 Kenilworth • 1701 Clinton, #204
your address here...

Curb your pets' gallivanting

by Marcelle Zonta

Each work day, I walk to the bus stop at Franklin and Hillhurst around 6:15 am. As I walk, I am saddened and appalled at the number of posters of missing pets and at the number of pets sitting on the street as I go along. This is a very dangerous practice!

Please, please, if you love your pets at all, make them stay in at night, even if they rant, rave, or cry to go out. They will soon get over it. Lately I have see coyotes walking boldly down the street at this early hour. Now I personally have nothing against coyotes but I'm sure none of you wants to see your little darlings being made the main course for friend coyote, so keep your pets in!

As I say, they'll rant and carry on but listen, put up with it. It won't be that long and you'll know where they are and you'll have them around for a lot longer.

FOUR PAWS & A TAIL

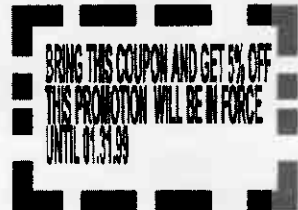
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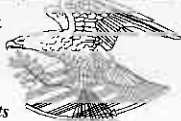
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This article from the Southern Sierran was brought to us by Franklin Hills resident David Campbell, who also abridged it for use, with permission, by the Overview

WHERE DOES IT ALL GO?

By Len Mindes,
abridged from the
Southern Sierran, December 1998

Since September 1997, the Big Blue containers have raised the collection rate of L.A.'s recyclables from 6% in the yellow bins to 20%.

Are you puzzled as to what happens to the mixed material in the blue bins? They are dumped onto a huge conveyor belt at material recovery facility (MRF) contractors where workers sort the material into piles of aluminum, paper, plastic, etc.

The MRF's pay the city only \$5 to \$15 per ton versus up to \$30 per ton if the materials were pre-sorted. It is important that we don't place non-recyclables into the blue bins because the price drops if a particular load has too many unrecyclable items.

Because most of us have tripled the amount of garbage we recycle, more materials are diverted from scarce landfills and dumping fees are significantly reduced. Also, trucks can unload twice as many blue bins in a day as yellow bins. The former \$2 million per year loss to scavengers has also fallen.

Market demand for recyclables is increasing. A paper mill in Pomona produces newsprint using 100% recycled paper.

The program is part an environmental program and part an economic program. The future economic possibilities lie in resident participation, resident education—an awareness of what materials may be recycled—and whether market demand can be increased.

ALLOWED

- Clean dry paper: computer, ledger, wrapping, art and craft paper, unwanted mail, fliers, telephone books, note cards, newspaper, blueprints, magazines, file folders, paper bags, Post-It notes, catalogs, and all envelopes.
- *Cardboard boxes and cartons: cereal, tissue, beer, dry food, frozen food, shoe and detergent, corrugated boxes torn apart and flattened, and paper/toilet rolls.
- *Metal and aluminum cans: rinsed juice, soup, pet food, empty paint and aerosol cans with plastic caps removed.
- *Glass bottles and jars: rinsed soda, wine, beer spaghetti sauce and pickle jars, etc.
- *Plastic bottles: rinsed soda, juice, detergent bleach, shampoo, lotion, mouthwash, dish washing liquid bottles, etc. Plastic milk jugs.

NOT ALLOWED

- Wet paper: all wet paper and paper with food waste.
- Broken glass: light bulbs, glass bottles, jars, etc.
- *Other plastic, plastic bags, plastic tubs for margarine or yogurt, frozen dinner trays, hangers, toys, etc.
- Other: coated milk cartons, aluminum foil, electric cords, cloth, PVC, wood, Styrofoam, wire hangers, asphalt or concrete, hose, tires, appliances, mini blinds, etc.
- *Hazardous materials: syringes, all partially filled aerosol cans and containers for cleaning fluids, auto fluids, batteries, pesticides, oil based paint, garden and pool chemicals.

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KING MIDDLE SCHOOL REGAINS ITS ORIGINAL STYLE

By Mary Rodriguez

*In an institution of learning
it is important to feed the heart and the soul as well as the mind.*

Parents, teachers, administration, surrounding associations and neighborhood watch groups are currently engaged in making Thomas Starr King Middle School a better place of education by involving the students and the community in a re-landscape project to help beautify a once pristine campus. King was built in 1926, but it was razed in the 1960's and rebuilt without leaving much of the original design, architecture or beauty.

But in the mid-courtyard area there are remnants of another time in King Middle School's history: a beautiful tiled fountain in colors of yellow, orange, turquoise and royal blue with figures reminiscent of Maxfield Parrish and a circa 1936 WPA statue of an Indian Chief appropriately called "Vanishing Race" by artist Djey el Djey. We propose to restore these objects and the grounds that surround them so that they may once again restore the spirit of the school and become a source of pride for the neighborhood.

Thomas Starr King Middle School and Los Feliz Improvement Association have been awarded a grant from the city of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works for \$5000.00 through the Neighborhood Matching Fund Grant Program. This money will begin our project by re-landscaping the front of the school on Fountain Avenue at Myra, and the back of the school on Sunset Drive. But to complete the mid-courtyard area it will take approximately \$25,000.00. Landscape Architect Mia Lehrer will be work-

ing with us on the courtyard project and will need to begin with a site plan of the area which the 8th grade math class will help draw.

Neighbors from the surrounding community of Silver Lake will help by propagating specific drought tolerant plants for use in the front of the school as well as the courtyard area. The science classes will be assisting with the plant propagation and have already begun a garden of their own.

On November 18th the Los Angeles Conservation Corps came to King Middle School with 19 trees (Magnolia and Crape Myrtle) and together with the 6th grade classrooms they will plant them around the perimeter of the school including Bates Ave., Sunset Drive, Manzanita Street and Fountain Avenue. Franklin Hills Residents Association provided drinks and snacks for those students participating. The 6th grade classes are committed to watering the new trees every week for the remainder of the school year. At that time a program will need to be set up with the students and the surrounding community to continue watering the trees for the first year of their new life.

If you are interested in helping with this project in any way please do not hesitate to call. Volunteering your time and labor is crucial to our receiving the full \$5000.00. We are open to any ideas or suggestions that you might have. Please contact Mary Rodriguez, (323) 661-6366.

Mary Rodriguez is a community activist, a board member of the Los Feliz Improvement Association, the Community-Police Advisory Board of Northeast Division, and acts as a liaison between LFIA and FHRA.

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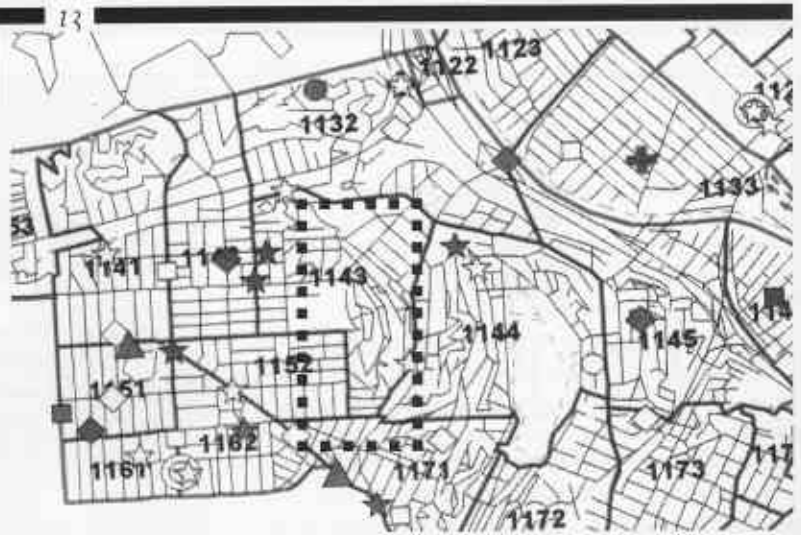
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By Carol Skinner

For any readers who may have joined us recently, C-PABs exist in every station of LAPD. The board membership is made up of persons representing communities, business organizations, or other neighborhood entities. C-PAB is not a support group for the police, although members are likely to be aware of, and therefore empathize with, the problems and stresses of police work. The purpose of C-PAB is an exchange of information between the police and the community, and among the several communities of the division; and attempting to find solutions to problems which are of concern to all.

Information: reproduced here on this page is a portion of a crime analysis map. These are discussed at each CPAB meeting. The most recent meeting was in November and the crime report available then covered November 1 to 9. In all of Northeast that report showed 8 robberies and 3 sex crimes, 14 Aggravated Assault, 35 Grand Theft Auto (always the crime of choice: Hondas and Toyotas are primo), Burglary Theft From Vehicle: 34, Burglary 15, and no homicides. One robbery occurred on the border between FH and Silver Lake, all else was elsewhere in the division. During the two years that I have had the opportunity to see these maps the numbers have been steadily declining, here on our hill and throughout the area.

Attempted Solutions: Franklin Hills, Los Feliz, Atwater and Silver Lake have been concerned for some time with business



A portion of a F.A.S.T.R.A.C map of North East division. Franklin Hills is in the area outlined by a dotted line-nearly all of 1143 & a corner of 1152. (Basic Car area 1143 is SLO Al Polhonki and 1152 is SLO Sam Salazar.) Note Griffith Park at upper left, Silver Lake just east of Franklin Hills, Atwater in the north center. The map of NE division would fill this entire page. This map represents one week, from 10-18-98 to 10-24-98, & shows all tracked crime during that period.

illegally operating on Hyperion (violation of Building & Safety regulations, no business licenses, no certificate of occupancy, in violation of zoning ordinances, causing severe parking problems due to lack of parking for customers, confrontations and assaults against residents.) The community has provided a great abundance of anecdotal testimony, the police have tried to deal with the traffic and parking problems, and the cases have gone to various courts on various occasions. Last we heard, the business owners were claiming exemption because they were offering

Continued on page 14

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sexual therapy; or else that they are hotels/motels, and the city attorney's office was at long last beginning to file civil and criminal cases.

Cooperation: Another citizens' organization is B.L.E.N.D., business people and residents supporting N. E.. On November 13 of this year all police divisions celebrated Police Appreciation Day. At N.E. several C-PAB members were happy to join with BLEND to make the day successful. Blue ribbon bows were provided by Lucy Spurgeon for everyone, and all the neighborhoods were decorated. Shirley Newland put up the bows for Franklin Hills (two of them vanished). At each change of watch during the day members were at the station to serve breakfast, lunch and dinner to the officers coming on and going off watch. At dinner time there was an impressive display of casseroles, hot dogs, hamburgers, sandwiches, salads, chile and wonderfully gooey desserts, donated by businesses or brought by individuals. One officer was heard to say that dinner was usually something scarfed down in the car en route to somewhere. Both the officers and the servers enjoyed the day. This in an annual event, and any number of volunteers would be welcome next year to bring food and serve.

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African-American neighborhood with a very well known congresswoman, and it was like walking through Boston with a Kennedy!

The vortex gathers ever growing energy until it comes to a head on election weekend (Friday through Monday) with people getting sometimes no sleep at all. You've done all you can, perhaps more than that, and election day is spent calling for a terrible number of hours, urging potential voters to do just that. Thank god! It's 8 pm; the polls are closed and it's all over...sort of. The parties begin in a hotel here or a campaign office there where vast arrays of food and drink seem to appear out of the blue and utter exhaustion is forgotten. Blaring TVs add to the noise and excitement, speeches are made, a sea of people hug and laugh in pent up emotion. Some races can be forecast fairly quickly, but the close ones are the nail biters with cheers growing, or not, as more results come in. If your candidate looks to be a winner, the energy level continues. If the results aren't clear, around midnight what little spunk you have left is slipping away but with hope still lingering.

By that time a few of staff/close associates knew that our man would lose. Walking through the still numerous, loudly hopeful merrymakers while trying to look at all cheerful was almost surreal. They would learn soon enough. I don't know about the heartbreak of psoriasis, but I can sure tell you about the heartbreak of defeat. It lingers... Though I cannot say that I'd recommend such an experience to most people, and it's one that I don't think I would/could repeat, it was most certainly a highlight in my life. I have no regrets and I was most definitely a part of the process. Now I understand what Dorothy Parker meant about your candle burning at both ends. Indeed! But I must tell you...my wick is wasted.

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A YEAR TO CHEER

By Bruce Carroll

*Holiday times...goodwill...good cheer.
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*Our library building...nearly through.
Our bridge is back...better than new.*

*While real estate's up...our crime is down.
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Rescuing a Feathered Friend Means Doing Very Little

by MJ Levine

Summer is here, and Franklin Hills' birds are rearing their crop of nestlings. If one of these downy babies shows up in your yard without its parents, you will be faced with the quandary of what to do.

This morning I was awakened by loud squawking coming from the living room—my cat had brought home a baby mockingbird. Amid much hissing, I took possession of the bird.

Once "Skinny" (named for her legs) was safely shut away from the cat, I looked around outside to see if I could locate the parents or the nest, but to no avail. I tried to give her some cat food, but she wouldn't take it. I tried water with the same result. She seemed to alternate between exhaustion and hysteria.

I called the SPCA, who said they would send someone to pick her up as soon as possible. "But what do I do in the meantime," I asked. They referred me to a woman named Diane, whose mission is to rescue

birds. Diane's advice: Do as little as possible.

"Keep the little guy warm, dark, and quiet," she said. She cautioned against trying to feed it. "A bird's airway is very close to the front of its beak, not back in its throat like other animals. It could aspirate anything you manage to get into it," she advised. Besides, the chance of it being the right food for the bird is very remote.

I had done everything wrong to that point, but Skinny was still with us. I put her in a small box lined with soft tissue. I cut holes in the box top and settled her in. In about an hour a crisply uniformed man arrived to take her.

I asked the officer what would happen next. He said someone would examine her to make sure she was not injured. Then a rescue place might take her and raise her until she could fly away. If not, she would probably be put to sleep. Sad, but a better end than being torn apart by a cat.

The numbers to call should you find a little feathered stranger in your back yard are:

The SPCA shelter for this area is 323/485-5765. Diane is at 818/353-9414.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Overview welcomes submissions from readers, whether in the form of personal essays or stories—such as the story on the previous page—or expressions of concern—such as the letter and article which follows.

Please address your contributions to:

*Editor, The Overview
P.O. Box 29122
Los Angeles California 90029*

Dear Editor,

I am representing a new neighborhood group that has formed to help combat the excessive yelling and screaming noise from LILA School. A petition is now circulating, and a number of neighboring families have already signed it. I would greatly appreciate if you could include the following article in the next edition of "Overview" to help lend more support to this cause to improve our neighborhood. The presence of the article may not only help to increase the number of the petition signatures, but it may also help to spur the school officials to some positive action.

Sincerely,

J. Alan Jones, Chairperson
Franklin Hills Noise Abatement Group

Anyone with an interest in this issue is encouraged to call or write Mr. Jones. His address and phone are appended to his article in the next column

LILA School Noise

A neighborhood group, known as the Franklin Hills Noise Abatement Group, has formed to specifically target the excessive noise problems from the private, French-speaking Lycée International de Los Angeles (LILA) school at 4155 Russell, adjacent to ABC TV. Although residents have complained about the loud yelling and screaming during intermittent playground recreation periods, school officials have refused to make any improvements. Of all the local schools, including Franklin Avenue Elementary School, King Junior High School, and Marshall High School, only LILA School (Kindergarten to 12th grade) condones this type of loud yelling and screaming during their intermittent recreation periods. If you have been adversely affected by this noise, please sign the*petition below and forward it to the address shown. The purpose of the petition, as suggested by LA City Councilman John Ferraro's office, is to convince the school administration to voluntarily reduce noise and to be a better neighbor, while encouraging the students to enjoy recreation periods in the same reasonable manner as all the other local schools.

Please feel free to make additional comments. A number of petitions, already received, have also complained of the litter problem and disgraceful trailer park atmosphere of the school yard.

J. Alan Jones
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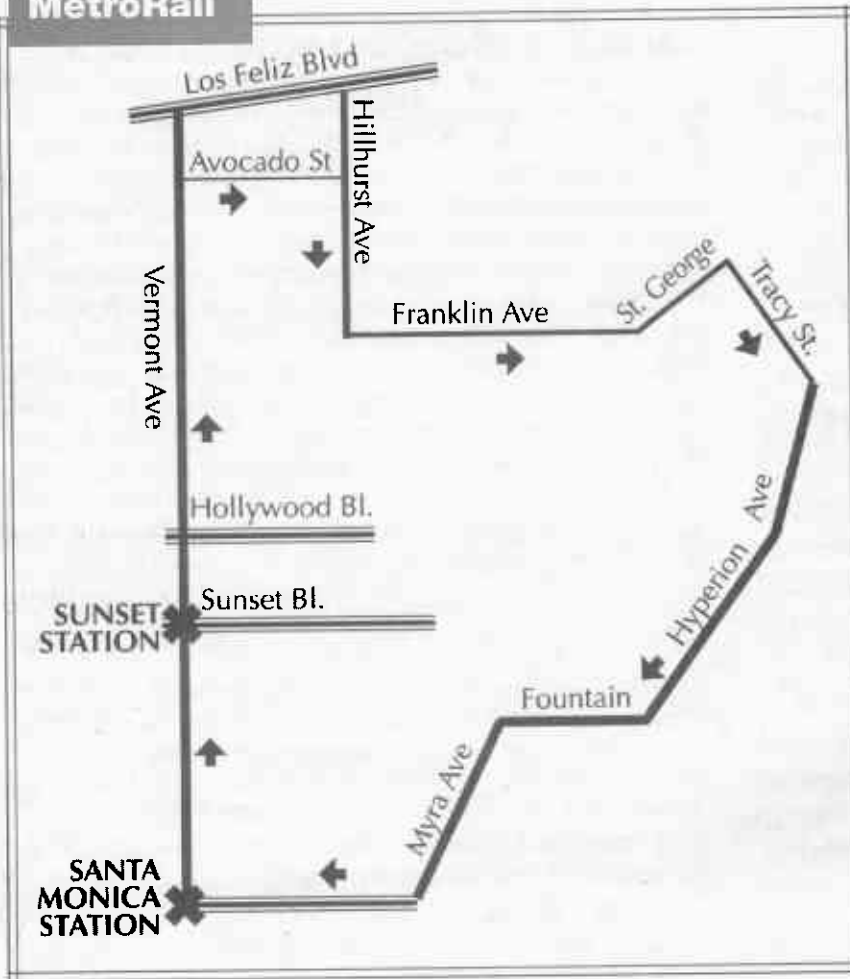
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**MORE ON KISS AND GO
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IS THERE LIFE AFTER MTA?
BY MARCELLE ZONTA**

In the previous issue of *The Overview*, we discussed trying to get some form of transportation from our neighborhood to our new subway station (at Vermont and Sunset) when it opens in 1999—since there is no parking planned. The Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) will be providing transportation to the subway via a DASH bus similar to the ones that traverse downtown Los Angeles. The route shown (at the left) was reached by consensus at our general meeting in July.

This is, however, a work in progress. The stops have yet to be put in place, so if you have any preferences on which corner you would find most convenient, just call the FHRA Hot Line, and I will forward your ideas to Mike Griffin of LADOT, who is now our contact person. Of course, money, the old bugaboo, rears its ugly head as to the timing of the buses

Continued on page 19

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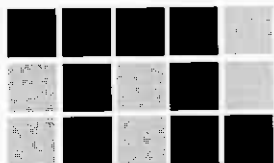
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and the number of them on the routes. Most of us daily bus/subway riders want only two things: that the bus show up on time, not dilly-dally along the way, and that it gets us there in plenty of time to catch our train. We don't like getting down the escalator only to see our train merrily tootling off into the distance.

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE VERMONT-SUNSET STATION:

If you use the Metro these days, you will have seen a sign announcing that the Hollywood section of the Red Line will be opening in May 1999. That's about six months from now. So far the picture stands like this:

The main station box is complete (this means roof, top, bottom & sides). Side structures and the

main entrance are almost complete. The curb, gutter and bus pad are completed at the North station entrance. Bus pad, curb and gutter have been placed at the south blast relief shaft.

ARCHITECTURAL FINISHES:

Platform and edge pavers are complete. Floor tile, wall and ceiling panels are in progress.

CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS:

Ceiling panels installation is in progress. Platform entrances are nearly completed. Main entrance is to grade with backfill near completion. Leak repairs are in progress. Escalator trusses have been installed. Little by little we make progress, despite everything that has gone down.

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The Los Feliz Community Police Center has re-located to 1965 Hillhurst on the second floor of California Federal Bank. They are now seeking volunteers to staff the center Monday through Friday between 9 A.M. and 5 P.M. Hours of service for individual volunteers can be flexible—you may volunteer for as much time as is convenient for you. Here is a great opportunity to serve your community—how often have you heard people say that they wish the Center were open longer hours? Also, you have an opportunity to meet and become acquainted with more of our neighbors. Training will be available to all volunteers.

Please contact Officer Rita Vallejo, Community Relations Office, Northeast Division at (323) 485-2548.



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TWINKLE TWINKLE LITTLE BRIDGE

By Bruce Carroll

Had any bright ideas lately...about holiday lights for the Shakespeare Bridge? That's what the FHRA asked art students who study at the LILA campus just below the bridge's dramatic arches. Their close CONNECTION to the bridge, we hope, will ENERGIZE them to GENERATE BRILLIANT plans to SWITCH the bridge from its CURRENT look into WATT we hope will become a GLOWING holiday tradition, a SHINING example and a POWERFUL symbol of how the bridge manages to FUSE both UTILITY and beauty. So far there has been no RESISTANCE to the plan...no one has asked, "WIRE you doing this."


This idea that had long lingered as an impossible dream moved to the realm of reality when the city announced plans to reconstruct the bridge. Long before the jack hammers and cement trucks began their work last year the FHRA asked city engineers to work on including electrical outlets so that we could dress up our eight turreted treasure to compete with Rudolph each holiday season.

As this issue of the Overview goes to press precise plans for just how we hang the lights have not been finalized...but one thing is sure...we'll try not to get the kind of lights where if one bulb goes out the whole string goes dark.



(Above) an editorial attempt to convey, through the magic of Photoshop, what the bridge may look like in December and January. Strings of plain white lights will come down from the point of each tower, and each pair of towers will be linked by a wire from which small "icicles" of lights will glitter. Major question: who's going to ride the cherry picker to put them up?

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DECK THE WALLS, the bridge and whatever else you can find. . . A modest suggestion

By Carol Skinner

As we await the holiday season, Franklin Hills anticipates seeing our bridge outlined with festive lights for the first time in its history. Many residents have long been accustomed to using light and color to decorate their homes in the last weeks of the year; providing a view for the neighbors to the east and west; just as they are usually a part of our view. Wouldn't it be fun to decorate other features of our beloved community?

For openers, consider the large, vividly colorful containers which the city has so generously given us. They offer to the imaginative resident a movable and variable space on which to create something new and exciting. They are certainly out and visible—for good reason. (I tried to take the blue can up my driveway one day not long after it arrived, and it ran over me.) Lining them up bravely along the driveway one might try for a traditional effect, with wreaths, or perhaps candles or luminarias balanced on the tops. Persons with more advanced artistic skills should have ample space to paint scenes or designs of their own devising.


That being in hand, let us move on to other opportunities. The stairways could be turned into arbors, with appropriate symbolic decor on the landings. Our street lights are decorative enough as

they are (Bad cess to those who would stick us with cobras! May they spend eternity driving the 605 behind an SUV.)

We may not have sidewalks, but we at least have curbs, and those who have refused to pony up a \$20.⁰⁰ ransom have *blank* curbs. Smaller children might be given an opportunity to create tiny murals winding down our streets. What about costuming the critters who share the hill with us? If your Yorkie looks adorable in a little angel outfit, think what it would do for the handsome coyotes who live on Hollyvista! The skunks would make fine Dickens characters in bonnets, shawls and overcoats; but I just don't know what we can do with the possums. Recruiting the animals to cooperate with this scheme will best be left to the individual residents' creativity and initiative.

Last, my favorite project. Let's all decorate our potholes for the holidays! We certainly have enough of them, and they could be made to be quite charming with little lights around the edges. Silvery duct tape would make attractive bows, and might even hold the edges together. If the overall effect succeeds in slowing down traffic a bit, it may protect the domestic beasts and children, and wheel alignment, too.

This is one more opportunity for Franklin Hills to show the city what we can do when we organize, committee-ize and set out together to accomplish a common goal! Let's go for it!

 **FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**
P.O. BOX 29122, LOS ANGELES, CA 90029 NEW RENEWAL

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I'm willing to help in: Planning /Zoning Graffiti Crime/Safety Traffic Library Newsletter prod.
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 Telephone tree Membership Beautification Disaster Prep other _____

DUES are \$20.00 per couple or \$10.00 per person; AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$10 \$20 \$50 Other \$ _____

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

A CANDLE HAS TWO ENDS

By Bob Page

We in the Franklin Hills have a growing reputation for how well we turn out for an election, the number of us voting always higher, often by far, than the overall average. Most of our political involvement centers around that voting with a few people readily offering garage or home as a polling place, and a few more spending a very long election day working at the polling tables. Every now and then some of us get more involved depending on whether a political office/headquarters opens up in this area. Those volunteers phone/walk and "what-ever" mostly during the last two months of any campaign. I've been there, done that...several too many times I think. But this year I got further involved...up to my glabella, working on staff for a man that ran for U.S. Congress. I was asked if I might like to share my thoughts about such an involvement...on a neutral basis of course. After a very long eight months, I suspect I feel more neutered than neutral. Let's see...

This particular campaign was straight forward with neither candidate opposed in the primary, with both offering clearly differing stands on most of the issues...a situation hopefully leading to good dialogue after the primary. But, if strong attitudes and clear clashing of opinions are the heart of a good election, that heart must, out of necessity, have constant serum. And the blood of a campaign is money. I'm not sure if this will surprise anyone, but it seems that 90% of a campaign is pulling the dollars in so that the candidate can attempt with the little time left to try to reach the people.

For the first three months of our campaign our office was in the candidate's home. I was "the" staff, assisting in calls for contributions, processing checks, helping with the growing scheduling, going to the cleaners...what ever it took to help out...always with a sense of humor (though I didn't make many points when I called Aaron Spelling "Adam".

With the primary over, everything expands, explodes, taking on a vibrancy, an urgency all its own. I'm still not sure if we were running the process or it was driving us. It never slowed up; it only grew in intensity, excitement, exhaustion...and not always in the calmest of moods. For the next four months we were in the maelstrom. We went from the office at home to two separate office locations and a real staff with me doing the candidate's scheduling (I sent him to the wrong location or on the wrong day only a few times...). Eight phones never ceased ringing, scheduling (out of necessity) went bonkers, contributions flowed in, volunteers grew...high schoolers, college students, retired folk. A day went from 7 am until "late"...seven days a week that, as the election drew nearer, were not enough. Being such a highlighted race, we became a focal point for elected officials from all over...locally, Sacramento, and WDC. At one point I found myself on a walk through a predominately

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