

# OVERVIEW

FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

ISSUE No. 19

SPRING-SUMMER 2000



"Lunar Perigee over Franklin Hills—December 22, 1999" Ulf Wallin

## GENERAL MEETING WEDNESDAY EVENING JUNE 7 AT ABC-TV

By Carol Skinner

FHRA's Annual Meeting will be held this year at ABC-TV studios Rehearsal Hall One. Enter the ABC lot at the Main Gate on Prospect, just east of Talmadge (*not* the Talmadge gate) and the guard will direct you from there. Refreshments—courtesy of ABC and FHRA — will be served starting at 7 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 7:30.

INSIDE	
President's letter	2
Mission Semi-Impossible	3
Community Phones	5
Little Changess	6
Reflections	7
LAPD	10
Bulk item pickup	11
No-vending zone	13
Los Feliz Library	15
King Middle School	17-20
Noisy neighbors	21
Pedantics Unite!!	23

For the major part of the evening we hope to have general discussions and questions on topics of interest, such as City Services (street sweeping) Infrastructure (read potholes,) Neighborhood Councils, Cityhood for Hollywood—does it affect us?, and LAPD—crime and responsiveness. Articles in this issue of the *Overview* relate to some of these topics. Representatives from city government, police and other community groups will be invited to attend and supply information. Planned agenda also includes such annual business as election of Board members and yearly reports.

Past projects of the association include the median landscaping, this newsletter, stairway cleanups, tree planting, disaster preparation plans and neighborhood school environment restoration. Many of these came about because someone attended an annual meeting in the past and said, "What can we do about. . ." . Maybe *you* will be

the person with the needed and doable project this year.

Reminder letters have been sent to past and present dues-paying members; fliers have been posted and sent out to notify the rest of the neighborhood. We are not a "Home owners Only Association" although we cherish the support of those who do own a home here, along with renters and fans. If you did get a letter, please bring the tearoff with you as it will speed the check in of members. If you are not yet a member, you are encouraged to join at the meeting—it's \$10 per person or \$20 for a couple. Donations are tax-deductible and go to support the association projects. More than your dollars, we want your ideas and participation. Weed the median, plant a tree, help with folding and stuffing of letters, attend a meeting somewhere, write for this newsletter. . . we have (or can have) a project for every inclination. Even if you are not sure about joining, please join us at the meeting.

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Ricardo Gomez

Contrary to what our Mayor says, things are not entirely better in the City of Angels. As a long time resident of Los Angeles, I can attest that there is more trash in the streets and that more dilapidated housing and buildings exist now than at anytime during my 44 year life here. The present conditions exist because Los Angeles does not adequately provide basic municipal services to many of its residents. Some Franklin Hills residents have labored for years to improve our neighborhood. Often, however, it seems as if we are fighting an uphill battle with city officials turning their backs on us. Many city officials don't feel any sense of accountability towards us and they feel free to disregard our best interests. The solution? We need more citizen involvement in City government.

### Neighborhood Councils, Farce or Furtherance?

Recent City Charter reforms established the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (known as "DONE"). The purpose of DONE is to establish "neighborhood councils" in Los Angeles and thereby improve our City government. These neighborhood councils will act in an advisory capacity to City government.

Recently I went to one of the meetings sponsored by DONE to solicit input on how to set up a neighborhood council. The meeting was raucous and the DONE employees did a good job in a difficult situation. At the meeting I read the text of the proposed ordinance and, to my chagrin, I discovered that these proposed councils are something less than advisory. They will have no real power to make City government listen to their advice. Although the draft ordinance superficially requires that city officials give notice of intended actions, such as voting on legislation, to the neighborhood council before they occur, the ordinance contains a general exception to the notice requirement.

The general exception allows city officials to disregard the existence of a neighborhood council when they see fit. City officials can legally take action on a matter of great importance to the community without first notifying the neighborhood council for input. If you don't think that this will happen just remember the secret dealings with the Greek Theater contract and the Children's Museum. Simply put, powerful special interests will still be able to secretly lobby city departments, the City Council and the Mayor to put projects or conclude deals in your neighborhood without your input.

Are neighborhood councils a farce? It depends on what we do with them. If neighborhood councils are structured so that the geographical boundary of each neighborhood council is merely coextensive with that of an existing residence or improvement association, then they will be a farce. Why have a neighborhood council that merely parrots an existing association? It is a waste of public monies to fund something that is already provided by citizen volunteers at no cost to taxpayers. Such small boundaries will further balkanize our City and will diminish citizen power vis a vis the special interests who tend to dominate City government.

continued on page 24

## FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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#### **METRO RAIL:**

Bruce Carroll 467-8703

#### **PLANNING & ZONING:**

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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*

## MISSION semi-IMPOSSIBLE

By Bruce Carroll

This mission impossible has no international spies or self destructing instructions, but it does involve time travel. The last issue of the Overview featured a story about Harold "Bud" Young who had made a sentimental journey back to the Franklin Hills for the first time since the great depression. That was when the family was evicted from the house that his father and uncle built with their own hands in the early 1920's.



While the house was still under construction, Bud, in his mother's arms, along with his sister Ella and "two Stockdale children" were photographed sitting on a small pond in the backyard (see above). After the last Overview story Bud found this and other old pictures that show the surrounding neighborhood 75+ years ago looking like a rural village. It was this that set me on my mission to match the 1923 photo with the same perspective from the same location today.



I easily found the cute little cottage at 3914 Sunset Drive. It has defied the California pattern of frequent turnovers according to its current, owner Brenda Kilbourne. In tracing the lineage of the house where she has lived for the last 17 years Kilbourne found that Blu Hicks and her husband ob-

tained the house from the foreclosing bank by "investing \$ 100 worth of improvements. . . apparently a paint job." Kilbourne's research also found that "before they moved the Hicks lived in a tent on the hill at 3939 Sunset Drive." About half a century later contractor Joe Hoefler got the Hick's house at a probate sale and re-sold it to Kilbourne.

Trying to duplicate the 1923 photo from the backyard today I saw nothing but flowers and trees. I tried neighboring houses on Sunset and Delongpre and determined that it was a mission, at least semi, impossible.



Decades of building and planting had made the intersection of Hyperion and Lyric invisible from Sunset Drive as shown in the old photo. When I went down to the intersection, alas I could not match any of the buildings in the photo with what is there now, but through the trees I could see old glory proudly from Bob Shea's Mayview Drive balcony.

I figured if I could see the flag, the Shea's might be the closest location today that could approximate the 1920's perspective. In photo #2 you can see what 77 years has done to the barren hill in the old photo's background.

The background hill was also my target in a 1925 snapshot of Bud's brother Francis in his stroller. The



continued to page 4

## SEMI-IMPOSSIBLE

neatly written note on the back of photo #3 says, "Taken from the back yard, Sunset Dr. looking over Hyperion & up the hill where movie star Anthony Moreno's home is on top of the hill." The home, which Shea believes later became a monastery, is

still there, now enshrouded by trees only three of which stand out in the old picture. Most visible of the old buildings, in photo #4 taken recently from the Sunset Drive backyard, are three square buildings that seem to form steps near the top of the hill in the center of both the old and new photos.



Bud Young

My mission to find our neighborhood's yesterdays hidden in today was both fun and frustrating.

Of course I knew that beneath the layers of homes were the once barren hills, but what I hadn't realized was, that more than the buildings it was the trees that would keep me from truly duplicating past perspectives. Despite all the ugliness 75 years of development might have imposed on the hills, each of us in our own backyards have patched together an urban forest.



Francis Young

And in that Franklin Forest dwell what many would have us believe is a disappearing breed: People who are genuinely neighborly, friendly and interested in their neighborhood. Most of the time I spent on my mission semi-impossible was spent chatting with residents who saw me on the street trying to figure out if I could match one of my pictures from their location. They invited me in, offered me snacks along with juicy tidbits of neighborhood history. Getting the information was so much fun that I have material for future issues of the Overview and invite anyone with old photos or stories important to preserving our area's history to get in touch.



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# community phones

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**ABC-TELEVISION:**

Security: (310) 557-5354.

**ANIMAL CONTROL:** (888) 452-7381

Dead Animal Pickup (323) 227-7179

**BARKING DOGS:** (888) 452-7381

**BRIGHT LIGHTS Streetlight repair:** (800) 303-5267

**BUILDING & SAFETY VIOLATIONS:** (213) 847-9685

**COUNCILMAN JOHN FERRARO, 4th District:**

(323) 485-3337

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

**FHRA HOTLINE** (323) 664-7247

**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:** (213) 485-8324

**TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT:** (213) 485-2799

**POLICE: EMERGENCY 911;**

**Spanish:** (213) 485-4333; **Asian:** (323) 893-8100

**Northeast Division, 3353 San Fernando Road, LA 90065:**

Adult/Women Abuse: (800) 978-3600

Community Relations: (213) 485-2548

Gang Problems: (213) 485-7538

Graffiti: Officer Colenzo (213) 847-0511

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

Main Desk: (213) 485-2563

Reports: (323) 485-4193

Basic Car Coordinator: Sgt. Marcey

Basic Car Coordinator: Sgt. Williams

Traffic Enforcement (Speeding) (323) 485-2799

Los Feliz Outpost: (323) 913-4682

9 to 4 M-F

**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

Bulky Item Removal (800)773-2489

Missed Trash Pick-up (800) 773-2489

**TREE TRIMMING (Hazards):** (800) 996-2489

**WATER & POWER:** (800) 342-5397

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

## Letters to the Editor

1. (On hand laid notepaper:)

Hello—

*Peter from Bates Avenue said "Hi" to us the other day and so here we are writing a check! I teach 7th grade at King M.S. and live on Cumberland. King has me teaching in the old Boy's Locker Room . . . I simply love the Franklin Hills and would be happy to be a part of graffiti removal or beautification projects.*

*Solid Newsletter!!*

*Matt Weaver & Hannah Lockhart*

2. (with gorgeous photo of sunset from Clayton Avenue)

To Editor, Overview,

*Thankfully the retrofitting of our bridge has saved it. But, alas, the gray paint job is dull and depressing. Our bridge still has its charm but has lost its glamour. My friends and I ask that serious consideration be given to painting it white. It will then be, as it was, a sparkling gem.*

*And oh, what happened to the Christmas lights promised?*

*Sincerely*

*Larry Colhause.*

Thanks for such attractive note cards! Seriously, folks:

- We promise to let you know of projects; and you are invited to Board meetings to make suggestions.\*
- A friend of mine taught for several semesters in a faculty restroom. In L.A, but not at King.
- Thank you for the kind words
- Do we remember a project manager promising us (at a general meeting) that the bridge would be the original color? We need to follow up on that!
- The Christmas lights for the bridge are safe in storage, awaiting electrical skills and a cherry picker. Anyone interested, please, please call\*
- We hope for further correspondence for future issues.

Please address to:

Editor, The Franklin Hills Overview

P.O. Box 29122, Los Angeles CA 90029

\*call the Hot Line: 664-7247



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**Richard Stanley**  
(323) 906-2417



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## Little Changes

by Peter Bedard

When I moved into my home in the "flats" of the FHRA area there was a lot of work to be done. There still is a lot to do, but little victories are sweet. Our most recent victory is just outside of our association area. With the help of the Hollywood Beautification Team and the LA City Council we will have trees planted along Myra Avenue. A whole stretch of fifty trees will soon line the drive from Santa Monica Boulevard to Fountain Avenue. The city arborist has approved the planting of Jacarandas, as they will make a colorful impact and a stately drive which will reveal all the improvements being made at Thomas Starr King Middle School at the end of Myra Avenue. These quick growing trees will have an immediate impact on the area and make the drive into FHRA a real treat all year. Our hope is that the trees will provide shade for the children walking to school, slow down cars as the leafy canopy grows, and reduce the illegal dumping problem plaguing the area. Lucent Technologies, which has a site on Myra, has also agreed to help in the maintenance of the trees by helping FHRA purchase drums and hoses for water.

Another little change you may have noticed already is the return of the "no parking" signs for street cleaning on the streets surrounding Thomas Starr King Middle School. After years of fighting for their return we finally have them. Thanks to Lupe Franco at John Ferraro's office and a dozen or so other people in the community. From experience, I can say that we are picking up two large trash cans full of garbage on a monthly basis on Bates Avenue alone. The street cleaning will hopefully reduce this eyesore. We still need to get trash cans placed on the basketball courts and playing field of Thomas Starr King Middle School, as the school doesn't seem to have the resources to clean itself up. As a neighborhood we are cleaning up these portions of the school and working towards a solution—wire mesh trash cans maybe.

On Bates~ we planted Euryops (a yellow daisy type of plant) along the parkway to reduce dumping, as this has helped in the past. This was done at a Mother's Day BBQ and street-cleaning event sponsored by the Bates Avenue Neighborhood Watch. Every mother was very proud, as we all should be, living in such a dynamic area full of promise!

Little changes can have a tremendous impact on our lives. If you have an idea for a "little change" that will improve our neighborhood, then let us help you make it a reality. Call the board, start a committee and make a difference.



REFLECTIONS ON FRANKLIN HILLS

By Shirley Newland

Everybody's view is a little bit different from our homes in the hills. Besides the view from our home, moving to Franklin Hills has changed my perspective and outlook in many ways. The attraction to the area was its surroundings and environment in Griffith Park for hiking, The Derby for swing dancing, and The Philosophical Research Society for self-discovery. But the biggest influence has been the people on the board of our residents association.

Coming from a background of limited social interaction I had little faith in believing that others care about what goes on around them. I was used to people closing up and keeping to themselves. But this is an extraordinary group. These people have shown me that working in the community can be a fun and rewarding experience, that I am not alone, and that together we can make a difference.

Unlike a lot of organizations where people get together and moan incessantly about their problems and don't do anything about fixing them, the Franklin Hills Residents Association looks for and acts in positive and helpful ways of working toward resolving them. Rarely is there heard a complaint that cannot be resolved with a helpful solution from at least one of the members at the monthly meetings.

Franklin Hills is a special place, especially for the people that live here and are on our board. Our former president, Adam Weissman, has a way of organizing projects and keeping people together to see them through. With his guidance, I was able to take on the Shakespeare Bridge construction and the Median projects. I am also grateful for the patience, support, and friendship of the others on the board and in the neighborhood.

As the leadership changes I am looking forward to continuing my involvement with the board. The association can only become richer for all who have contributed to it. As I sit up on our little piece of the hill and reflect upon all the nice people I have met here I am filled with gratitude and happiness for the home I call Franklin Hills.

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FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION MEMBER?  YES  NO

## Membership is More Than Just Money

Adam M. Weisman Chairman

Spring has traditionally been the season in which FHRA sends out the membership dues statement along with information about the upcoming Annual Meeting. In a process that has usually consisted of late-night envelope stuffing and stamp licking, a small crew of members send out notifications about the last date when you contributed to FHRA and various options as to where you would like your contribution to go. Typically, contributions are placed into the general fund that runs the organization. This includes mailings, The Overview, Median maintenance, Hillside Federation membership, and Community Police Advisory Board membership. In this last year, some of our operating budget funded two arts projects at Thomas Starr King Junior High, namely the mural and statue restoration. Occasionally, members come to the board and present us with small neighborhood improvement projects that usually receive the full support of FHRA. It's great when the neighbors bring up innovative solutions for isolated problems that impact upon our quality of life. For FHRA, each project is an investment our community and the dividends of such efforts are wonderful!

FHRA appreciates all the contributions, large or small, that have supported the organization since its inception. However, money is only one part of the membership process. By filling out your membership forms, each of you provides a great deal of information. By knowing where you live, we have developed a large-scale lot map of Franklin Hills. In my dining room (also used as a meeting room) hangs a 4 foot x 6 foot pin map with information about who lives where, where rental and business property are located as well as empty lots. Such information is not meant to be some part of a secret

governmental conspiracy. In situations such as crime alerts, we are able to locate and call neighbors who may be unaware of crime patterns along their street. Often, we receive calls about suspected criminal activities near houses that appear vacant or abandoned. By identifying the ownership, FHRA helps open communication. When trees from vacant lots endanger occupied homes, we can contact owners to circumvent any further problems.

Your membership form also includes space to print your e-mail address. In the last year, we have placed all e-mail addresses into a database so that information about FHRA activities can be wired directly to your home. This gets you the information quickly and reduces mailings. As we all come to embrace this new technology, FHRA information will only be a few key strokes away. Although your name, address, e-mail, and contribution are each very important to FHRA, probably the most important parts lie below those lines. First, what are you interested in doing for FHRA? Volunteerism is scarce in our fast-paced world. A few hours a month to help the organization is our foundation and we can not continue to exist without it. By choosing one area to volunteer, you will be linked to other volunteers. In some cases, you may have an idea that leads to a committee or project chair. For myself, it was the restoration and publicity of our 14-stairway system. There are numerous ideas raised at each board meeting and many await volunteers like you.

The last and most important part of the membership form is the suggestion area. Over the years, we have kept a stack of suggestions. Some of these suggestions have led to projects or events. Some have been critical of the organization. Some have become words of encouragement or appreciation. Regardless of their content, each suggestion is carefully reviewed by the board. Your words are essential to the progress of the organization. FHRA values your comments.

Even an occasional e-mail comes to the FHRA site and is forwarded on to the board members for review. Such an open flow of information, suggestions, and critiques has led FHRA to be a progressive voice for the community.

So remember to fill out your membership forms with all the information that can fit. Information that will help FHRA and will serve the needs of the neighborhood. Thank you again for your continued support!

*Alberto*  
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9  
**Coming Attractions**


The Overview will list any community event which we are aware of. Please let us know about events of interest anywhere in the area. Call the Hotline, drop a line to the P.O. Box or e-mail us.

July 2                      *Silver Lake Rocks, Silver Lake Runs*                      Sunday morning run around the reservoir, and a pancake breakfast. For information call Dr. Cheryl Revkin at (323) 665-1281

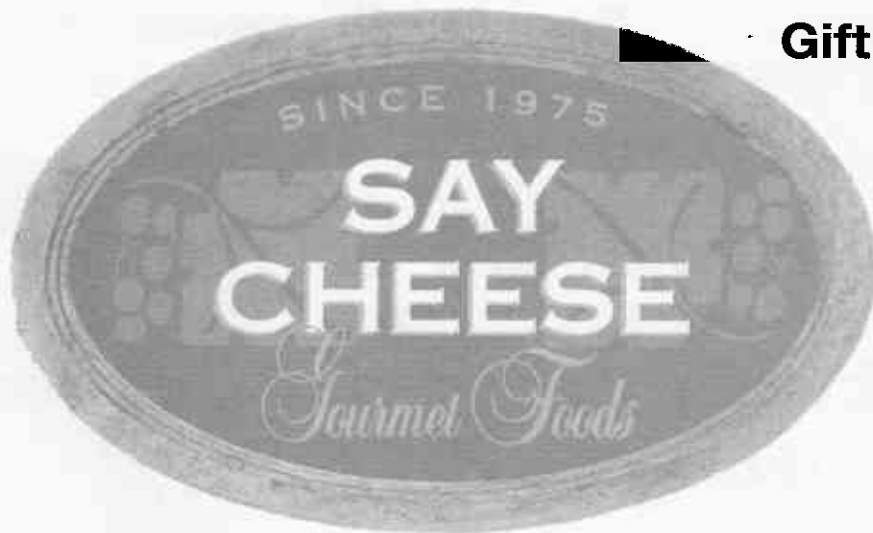
August 18-19-20 *Sunset Junction.*                      This justly famous event is right on our doorstep.

September 10                      *Los Feliz Village Street Fair.*

In fall this year, rather than in the spring. Lots of attractions, wonderful food booths, meet community associations which will have representatives there (see ya!) Children, animals, neighbors and tourists are all welcome. Do your gift shopping at the artisan booths.

U L F W A L L I N		P H O T O G R A P H Y
"Lunar Perigee Over Franklin Hills - Dec. 22, 1999"		
6.5" x 20" print on water color paper Framed \$ 175 • Unframed \$ 125 other sizes available upon request		
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## COMMUNITY MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN NORTHEAST AREA INSPECTION

by Northeast Division  
Community Relations Office

On March 29, 2000, over 300 members of the Northeast community Police Station proudly stood inspection in the parking lot of the station. This included patrol officers, detectives, specialized units within the division and all the supervisors. Members of the Com-

munity Police Advisory Board, along with "Blend" (Business for Law Enforcement, Northeast Division) members were invited to participate in this event. Personnel spent nearly three months in preparation for the inspection. The station took on a new look. Offices were upgraded with furniture donated through Blend by Litton Industries. Many hours were spent painting and carpeting various offices including the watch commander's office, report writing room and community relations office. A new Northeast Logo was painted on the back wall of the station

that looks over the entire station reflecting on the 75-year history of the Northeast area. Chief Bernard Parks and Northeast Commanding officer, Captain Kyle Jackson, led both members of CPAB and Blend through the ranks as a part of the inspection team. Northeast Explorer,



*CPAB and Blend members and officers at the inspection at Northeast. L to R.: Sharon Papa, Dean Spurgeon, Virginia Berry, Holly Nieto, Lucy Spurgeon, Micheal Cathey, Kay Beckham, Explorer Carlos Coronel, Barbara Lopez, Officer Jennifer Johnson, Mary Rodriguez, Captain Kyle Jackson, Kay Rivas, Sharon Grigsby, and Louise Marderosian.*

continued on p. 11

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continued from p. 10

Lewis Cornell, proudly walked the inspection line as a reward for achieving one of the highest honors for leadership awarded to explorers by the Boy Scouts of America. After the inspection Chief Parks spoke to all the officers and civilians of Northeast and praised them for the outstanding appearance of both the officers during the inspection and the cleanliness of the station. Chief Parks then complimented the involvement of our community members and the importance of the relationship between the police and the community. Chief Parks then discussed the Rampart scandal as dozen camera operators from the news media eagerly look on. The Chief remarked that the pride we showed him and the community members

# il Capriccio

on Vermont

**1757 North Vermont Avenue  
Los Angeles, California 90027  
(323) 662-5900**

**Sunday-Thursday 5—10 p.m.  
Friday and Saturday 5—11 p.m.**

**It's still bring your own! Hope to see you soon!**

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during the inspection is reflective of the integrity and hard work of the vast majority of the officers of the Los Angeles police Department. He stated that during this hard time we must not forget that we work for the citizens of this great city and continue to be proud to work for the best police department in the world.

The morale of Northeast is probably one of the best in the city. On March 31, 2000 the Northeast Community, including CPAB, Blend, concerned citizens and

business owners showed their appreciation for the dedication of Northeast Officers during Officer Appreciation Day held at the station. From 4:00 a.m. till late in the evening, citizen volunteers served food to the hungry and grateful officers. There was a tremendous response from the community. Officers also had the opportunity to interact with community members and get to know one another. It was a very successful event.

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## Bulky Items—an Eyesore

Discarded furniture doesn't have to stay on our streets and parkways!

by Julie Butcher

If you need to get rid of an old sofa, refrigerator or other large household item call the Bureau of Sanitation's pick-up service. Sanitation calls this service "bulky item pickup." Call 1-800-773-2489 follow the prompts and eventually you'll get an operator who will arrange a pickup. Call at least two days before your scheduled trash day. Put the item out the night before trash day and it will be picked up. It's a good service but what do you do about bulky items that careless people abandon on our sidewalks, streets and parkways?

Many areas of Los Angeles are littered with abandoned bulky items. The items will sit as an eyesore until a concerned citizen calls for a pick-up. If it's in front of a residence, you call Sanitation to pick it up. If it's not in front of a residence, then you call Street Services to pick it up. If a concerned citizen doesn't see the item or doesn't have the time to call it in, the item will just sit there until weeds grow through it. However, every trash day dozens of Sanitation employees will drive by that abandoned bulky item but they are powerless to remove it. Why? Because City management has deemed that it is not their responsibility because a citizen did not call it in.

The solutions: 1) Enable all Sanitation and Street Services drivers to report all abandoned bulky items observed in and around their regular routes regardless of whether the observed items are in residential, commercial, or industrial areas. 2) Initiate a periodic inspection program where the City's Street Use Inspectors survey an area to find abandoned bulky items. Street Use Inspectors could then identify problem properties where residents repeatedly discard household items onto the parkway. The City could then initiate nuisance abatement proceedings against the offending property owner and ameliorate the problem—for good!

How can we make this happen? Participation—City workers and residents should work together to plan and implement improvements to City services. City residents know what level of municipal services they want, City workers know how to provide those services and together they can restore LA to the highest community standards imaginable.

*Julie Butcher is a resident of Northeast Los Angeles and she is General Manager of the Service Employees International Union, Local 347, which represents City workers.*

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# The LAPD Must Enforce the No Vending Zone Around King Middle School

By Ricardo Gomez

Many local families refuse to send their children to King Middle School because of the poor appearance of the campus. (See, L.A. Times Middle School Muddle, May 11, 2000, Page A1.) We are making an intensive effort to clean up King and its immediate surroundings so that families feel comfortable sending their children to the school. A substantial problem is the abundant garbage around the perimeter of the school. Much of the garbage comes from vendors who park around the school and illegally sell food from ice cream trucks and pushcarts. This unlawful vending is inconsistent with the educational focus of the school and it impedes our efforts to rehabilitate the campus into an attractive academic learning center.

The problem is not unique to King Middle School. It is so widespread that last September Councilman Mark Ridley-Thomas introduced legislation to strengthen city laws that regulate ice cream trucks and other food vendors. On May 10, 2000, the City Council passed Councilman Ridley-Thomas's revisions to the law and now the revisions await the Mayor's signature. Currently, Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 80.73 prohibits ice cream trucks, catering trucks

and pushcarts from vending within 200 feet of any school. Councilman Ridley-Thomas, recognizing the importance of maintaining a safe and clean environment around our schools, increased the prohibition to 500 feet. The new revisions also increase the penalties for violations and explicitly mandate that vendors obtain county Health Department licenses.

When Councilman Ridley-Thomas announced his legislation, he implicitly recognized that the police had been lax in enforcing these laws and, with LAPD Southwest Area Captain Mike Chambers by his side, he urged law enforcement to vigorously enforce laws regulating ice cream vending trucks. We too have discovered that the police are lax in enforcing these laws. Most of us are unaware that, in addition to prohibiting vending around schools, these laws also prohibit an ice cream truck from parking within 100 feet of an intersection. Furthermore, an ice cream truck cannot remain parked in a residential neighborhood, measured one half mile in any direction from where it started, for more than thirty minutes. Thus if an ice cream truck begins its route at Franklin and Talmadge, its total time parked during the next half mile of travel cannot exceed thirty minutes. Pushcarts are illegal in all residential neigh-

continued to p. 14

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continued from p. 13

borhoods. All too often we have seen police officers slowly cruise by offending vendors and do nothing.

The vending laws are for our protection. They reduce the amount of noise, pollution and garbage that emanate from particular vending locations. They prevent the extensive loitering that occurs when a vendor remains parked for a long period of time. The prohibition on vending near schools is obvious. The danger of children running into the streets and the disruption to the school premises are paramount concerns.

Several ice cream trucks and pushcarts orbit around King Middle School during the after school hours and on weekends. Some vendors come after dark. King has over 2,000 students and many people use the facilities for after school recreation. The volume of garbage left from the vendors is substantial. The school custodians can't keep up with the volume and it piles up around the school. When it rains the water washes the garbage down the storm drains to the ocean. After the rain, our oceans and beaches are so polluted with contamination from this kind of decomposing garbage that the county health department has to close them.

The LAPD's failure to enforce the vending laws creates safety hazards for the children around King Middle School. The ice cream trucks often park at the corner of Sunset Drive and Myra Avenue, next to the stop sign across from the school, and block commuters view of cross traffic. On Sunday December 5, 1999,



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around 5 pm, within a few car links of this intersection, a young girl dashed out into the street to go to or from an ice cream truck and was hit by a car.

Dr. Thelma Yoshi, the principal of King Middle School, has asked LAPD Northeast to strictly enforce the no vending zone around the school. We have also requested strict enforcement of the vending laws. Yet the same vendors have been selling around the school for the last several years apparently without fear of being cited.

All of us work to earn a living. We have to obey certain laws with respect to how we conduct our businesses and employment. Street vendors are no exception. Explicit laws govern their activities but they are still free to conduct their business within the confines of these laws. The vending laws restrict their activities around schools and residential neighborhoods so that we can maintain a clean and quiet living environment. Recently, Captain Jackson of LAPD Northeast created a new problem solving unit. We are optimistic that under Captain Jackson's leadership, this problem solving unit will abate the illegal vending around King Middle School.



## Los Feliz Branch

The Library is pleased to announce several new enhancements to better serve the Franklin Hills community.

As a result of voter, City Council and Library department support the Los Feliz Branch is now open 17 more hours per week, including four nights and four mornings. The new, expanded hours are Monday and Wednesdays, 10:00 am to 8:00 pm; Tuesday and Thursday, 12:00 noon to 8:00 pm; and Friday and Saturdays, 10 00 am to 6:00 pm. This brings the total open hours to serve you up to 52 per week. We hope you drop in to visit soon.

We are also available for a virtual visit at [www.lapl.org](http://www.lapl.org). You can check the catalog, reserve and renew materials and browse some of the databases from home, office or even on vacation. We are also offering new library cards that come in a wallet/key chain style.

Staff has also increased and we

welcome adult librarians George Jamgochian and Catherine O'Connor. Catherine has been very busy arranging author visits a library book discussion group, art, theatre, music performances and even a coffee tasting workshop. We are now able to offer more Internet Resource and Library Computer Comfort classes. Stop into the library and pick up a copy of the calendar of events.

George brings an expertise in business resources and Armenian literature. He has been building the collection in both subjects and hopefully will be able to offer additional workshops on searching the Internet and databases in those subjects.

Also new is Robin Moon, who replaces Lyn Gill-

son as the Young Adult/Teen Librarian. Mr. Moon is developing a Teen Council to advise the library on issues and materials of interest for 9-19 year olds. For Teen Council information, please contact him at (323) 913-4710

The wonderful community support continues. The *Friends of Los Feliz Library* still hold the monthly Book Sales on the 4th Saturday and have recently donated \$3,000 for a children's Read-Along/Sing-Along collection to support the Tuesday 12:30 afternoon Toddler Storytimes.

continued on page 16

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Continued from page 15

To join the Friends Group call (323) 661-2629.

The Los Feliz Library League continues to present Architecture Lectures on the 3rd Thursday evening of each month with refreshments provided by Café Los Feliz. The League also donated a \$2,000 sound system for the meeting room which has enhanced all the programs. For information about the lecture or to join the League, contact the offices of Elizabeth Klock and Associates Realtors at (323) 644-9449.

While the two successful youth reading programs, the *Dodger Spring Reading* and the library *2000 Reasons to Read* end in May' the kickoff for the annual Summer Reading Program will be on Saturday June 17th. Contact Children's Librarian Connie Dosch for more information.

We also welcome a new Hollywood Area Manager, Edris Newton. Ms. Newton gives us the Administrative support that resulted in expanded hours, increased staffing and enhanced programs.

The entire staff looks forward to continuing to make the library and Franklin Hills the best place to be.

-Submitted by Pearl Yonezawa  
Senior Librarian

## MYSTERIOUS MEDIAN MESS



Franklinites approaching the bridge, looking forward to admiring our median, were shocked lately to see the above distressing scene (It's even uglier in color, thanks to the glowing orange of the cones.) No one has come forward to claim responsibility for the deed; and more important, no one has come forward to clean up the debris. Who coulda done it?

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# King Middle School Reconfigured As a High School?

By Ricardo Gomez

The LAUSD has proposed reconfiguring King Middle School into a high school. Presently, King serves grades 6 through 8. These students would be redirected to Franklin Avenue and Ivanhoe elementary schools. These elementary schools would be reconfigured into combined middle and elementary schools serving grades K through 8. The reconfiguration of the elementary schools would require a sizeable expansion of their facilities to accommodate a larger student population.

This proposed reconfiguration comes about because the LAUSD failed to complete the Belmont learning complex. Some of the students who were slated to go to Belmont may now be redirected to a proposed King High School. Belmont is a Pandora's box but, to date, no one has rationally and objectively studied the feasibility of completing a scaled back version of the school. We have only heard political hype from all sides. Hopefully a strong leader will come forward and figure a way to put this much needed site to good use.

The LAUSD needs to build more schools in the neighborhoods that need them. It is unfair to the children to bus them all over the city. It is unfair to excessively burden the residents of neighborhoods where existing schools are lo-

cated. The proposed reconfiguration of King Middle School will adversely impact Franklin Hills. Marshall High School is only eight blocks from King. Franklin is almost in between the two schools with Ivanhoe just to the east. The traffic would be unbearable. I attended Franklin Avenue Elementary, King Middle School and Marshall High School. Long time friends of mine went to Ivanhoe or Los Feliz elementary schools and then to King and Marshall. This sequence of education is part of our neighborhood. It helps maintain a healthy level of community involvement in the schools and maintains the overall discreteness of and bond between our Franklin Hills, Los Feliz and Silver Lake communities. This discreteness is what accounts for the small town feel of our area of the City. The LAUSD has no right, regardless of the reason, to summarily destroy this substantial element of our community.

I don't know the present posture of this proposal. I suggest that you contact Board of Education member Caprice Young (District 3 (213) 625-6386) and find out what is going on.

## GRAFFITI ON THE HILL

by Chris Boutelle



Have you noticed a recent spate of graffiti in the Franklin Hills? Areas that had not been touched for several years were defaced by two youths on Wednesday May 10. The boys, who according to the "tags" they left on mailboxes, walls and garage doors were from the Temple Street area left their marks with white spray paint and red permanent marking pens. Several residents called the police at Northeast Station [(213) 847-0511] and a unit was sent out. Although the youths hit an area along Clayton Avenue and up to Hollyvista Avenue, they managed to get away.

Other areas that are often attacked are on Tracy Street between St. George and Hyperion, and streets near Thomas Starr King. These markings are frequently done by rival groups to taunt people living in our area. Whatever the reason, it is imperative that residents call the police and report it; photograph the graffiti and then paint it out as soon as possible so that the writers cannot be gratified by a reaction to their work.

If you see evidence of graffiti in the area, call the FHRA Hot Line at 664-7247 as well as notifying Northeast.

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## Thomas Starr King Statue Restoration

by Mary Rodriguez

The new millennium brought a makeover for Thomas Starr King Middle School. A new landscaping was installed by the students, parents, teachers, and community along the front of the school on Fountain Avenue on March 4. A mural was begun by students as an after school project at the back of the school on Sunset Drive. But most importantly, restoration was begun on the historic 1936 Indian statue, titled "The Vanishing Race," which sits in the school's courtyard. The Los Feliz Improvement Association, Franklin Hills Residents Association, John Aaroe Charitable Foundation, the City of Los Angeles, and Save Outdoor Sculptures! of Washington, D.C., all contributed to the \$20,000 needed to hire professional conservators to preserve an historic art piece in urgent need of treatment.



Photo: Bruce Carroll

Fountain Avenue facade, with volunteers

The statue was a gift from President Franklin Delano Roosevelt to the children of our neighborhood school under the Works Progress Administration (WPA) Program. WPA was a public work program that sought to give relief

to the unemployed during the Depression. Its goal was to encourage self-reliance and self-respect in its participants by creating paying projects that utilized their skills. The program had many branches that specialized in the humanities area like the Federal Arts Project, which involved over 5,000 artists. It produced many paintings, drawings, sculptures and more than 2,500 murals for public buildings. Thomas Starr King Middle School was the recipient of paintings, murals, etchings and the sculpture, "The Vanishing Race."



"The Vanishing Race."

On January 18th Phase I of the statue restoration began. Over 11 layers of paint were meticulously removed with small scalpel-like tools. Sandblasting was not an option because there was no way of telling what condition the concrete stone sculpture was in under all of the paint. The exposed portions were broken and deteriorating and it was possible that underneath the paint the body of the statue could be deteriorated as well. Chemicals were only used on small patches where the paint had seeped into the concrete. Phase I was completed in mid-March.

The exposed portions were broken and deteriorating. . .



Photo: Bruce Carroll

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*Photo: Bruce Curmill*

*Mary Rodriguez and students on planting day*

Phase II included finding the right color match to the rose colored concrete so that the nose, feet and hand could be

molded and repaired. The color of the statue is unique. The rain turns it a dark terracotta color but the moment the sun shines it changes to a soft rose. Students and teachers have been able to witness this important transformation. Whereas it never seemed to warrant much attention it suddenly brought a slew of questions upon the conservators every day so an "Education Packet" was provided to inform and educate every teacher (150) about art restoration, WPA history, *The Vanishing Race*'s history, the artist, Djey el Djey, and sculpture as an art form/

Phase III is the addition of anti-graffiti paint and lessons from the conservator on how to preserve our beautiful new treasure. There is now definition that was not apparent under so much paint. There are graceful lines and detail of muscle. The massive build of the statue now brings dignity and strength where there was none. Perhaps the restoration of the Indian affectionately known to alumni as "Itchy Toe" can bring a renewed school spirit to the students, teachers, administration, and to the surrounding community, as well.

continued on p. 20

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## Neighbors Who Blast Their Music

### What Are Your Rights?

By Frederic Anthony

Many residents are annoyed when neighbors blast extremely loud music through powerful sound systems but they are unsure of how to handle the problem. What is the proper procedure for dealing with noisy neighbors when you don't feel comfortable (or safe) asking them to turn down the music?

First, know your rights. Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 112.01 prohibits a person from using an electronic sound system in such a manner as to disturb the peace, quiet and comfort of a neighbor or any reasonable person residing or working in the area. If the music is audible at a distance greater than 150 feet, measured from the property line of the house or building where the sound system is located, then a violation is presumed. If the loud music comes from a parked car, "boom box" or other portable device, Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 41.57 similarly prohibits "disturbing the peace". (Moving vehicles are governed by the vehicle code and noise violations are cited as moving violations.) These code sections apply regardless of the time of day. You do not have to wait until after 10:00 p.m. for peace and quiet.

Next, call the LAPD's non-emergency response number at 1-877-275-5273. Once your call is answered, one of two things may happen. If it is not a busy time, an operator may answer immediately. Give the operator a brief statement of the problem and the address of the noise's source.

Be sure to spell out the name of the street. If you don't know the exact address, give the closest address you can find or the nearest intersection. The operator may ask you for your name and address. You do not have to give this information if you don't want to. It is better to give at least your phone number in case the officers ask the operator for additional information. Another benefit of giving your phone number is that if it is a busy time, the operator can call you back and give you a progress report on the response to your call. Sometimes when you call you will get a recording with prompts (e.g., press 1 for loud parties and so forth). Don't hang up or you will lose your place. Follow the prompts until you get to the operator. It usually doesn't take very long even on busy nights.

What happens when you live near a noisy location and you find yourself calling the police on a monthly, weekly or even daily basis? So far the LAPD's approach has been to respond to each call on an incident by incident basis. This is a costly and unsuccessful method of solving the problem. Recently, Captain Jackson of LAPD Northeast established a problem solving unit that is supposed to address these kinds of repetitive problems. The phone number for the problem solving unit is 213-847-3136. When you contact the problem solving unit, make sure that you give a complete description of the problem including the address of the offending location and the frequency of the problem. It is helpful to give the officer the date the problem started (even if approximate) and the dates you or your neighbors called the police. This will allow the officer to obtain dispatch records and initiate an investigation.



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## PEDANTICS UNITE !!!

by Bob Page

Amongst the mire of my mental minutiae there are certain misuses or misapplications or mispronunciations of words that drive me up a wall or two...all perfectly inane admittedly. One that comes immediately to mind is "zoology". I get positively cranky when, while watching "Jeopardy," people who are winning all that money insist on saying zoo--ology. I wouldn't be so ticked if the word were mispronounced at least using the correct number of letters...such as zoo-logy. The one that most makes my teeth itch is the word harass...as in "harris", but that one, I have to accept, is a matter, now, of "you say potato and I say po--ta-w-to". Another is the word mischievous, unarguably a three syllable word...not four. But it's the misnomer boners that amuse me the most...such as saber--tooth "tiger" instead of saber--tooth cat. Or horned "toad" instead of horned lizard. I don't think there are any horned lizards around our hills, and the saber--tooth cats can, now, fortunately, only be found at the La Brea Tar Pits. But there are a couple of local amusements found in our own gardens.

Let's try "asparagus fern" as a start (actually I'd prefer to write about something else because the dern stuff has taken a strangle hold on a lot of my garden). It

is not a fern. It really is a member of the asparagus family (which, much to my surprise, is a member of the lily-of-the-valley family!), and it is, therefore, a fern asparagus...inedible though it may be.

Kind of along that line, most people know that a pineapple plant is actually a bromeliad, and that poinsettia are members of the large succulent group euphorbia. What's interesting about the latter is that they all seem to have that milk--white sap, and that some of that sap is poisonous. Some Indians of South America use the sap of one variety to dip their arrows in to then use to stun the birds/animals they "shoot" with bows or blow guns. I can personally attest to the potency when, having cut off a section of one, the sap fell on my fingers. For some truly dumb reason, later in the day, I placed finger to gum, and I assure you that the Indians of South America had Novocaine millenia before "we" did. I was in the process of driving home from El Segundo, and I bordered on barely controlled panic, waiting to see what else would go numb before I got home. Dumb and numb! It is, indeed, a memory that sticks with me...vividly.

One of the more raucous residents of our neighborhood are the scrub jays, mis-called by some "blue jays." Technically (here's where I can make your teeth itch) there is no such thing as a blue jay (just as there is no such thing as a sea gull). That got some attention I'm sure because...it's not quite true (though, it does seem to be true about gulls). There are blue jays; they just don't happen to be west of the Rockies. What we have in SoCal are scrub and Steller jays. What Franklin Hills have, at least from our awareness, are the scrubs...the noisy, fearless, and very (blue) jays... depositing unshelled peanuts everywhere...

We have two aged avocado trees that, after 25 years of a lot of watering, now produce far too many fruit, or at least more than we can consume (most of which we can't even reach). Thanks in part to the cheeky squirrels, many of them fall onto De Loz below (we understand that there is a petition circulating to change De Loz to Guacamole Lane!). One of the two trees produces the Hass avocados. They are

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not "Haas"...or at least shouldn't be because, as I understand the tale, the man that first made these fruit commercial was named Hass. In the media hurry to spread the word, his name got misprinted, and the name stuck...though some markets today correct the mistake.

I like the tale about the man that was taking an auto tour of Chapultepec Park in Mexico City. Seeing the forest of eucalyptus trees, he allowed as how he thought they were only native to California. It certainly seems that way, though they were planted here to produce an always--needed lumber supply...only to turn out to be too brittle to use commercially. But the best part of that Mexico story was when a fellow passenger (me) said that the trees were originally from Australia, whereupon the driver said that that was where their (Mexico's) emperor came from. Somehow I managed to keep enough composure to suggest that Maximilian came from Austria. Nonplused, the driver said..."It's all the same!" To this day I keep thinking of

kangaroos wearing monocles.

Avocados, bromileads, asparagus, eucalyptus. . "our" kind of plants! And jays. Each has a rather neat tale to be told about. I'll leave that sentence as is for the real pedantics to (properly) correct...! Terse comments about any of the above will be duly printed...in "The Recycler." Right now my garden calls to me Drat... another misnomer. I am not a "human bean!"

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continued from page 2

**President's Letter**  
**Neighborhood Councils**

Neighborhood councils can best further the public interest if their boundaries are more regional and are premised upon common geography and demographics. Franklin Hills, Los Feliz and Silver Lake should band together and form a single neighborhood council. We share common geographical features that include single family hillside residential properties that abut flat land business districts and high density apartment zones. We share common demographics. We are ethnically diverse and have a highly educated population that ranges from middle class to wealthy. Yet we also have areas with lower income and immigrant population. Our concerns are similar—we don't want overbuilding in our part of the City and we are putting great efforts into revitalizing and beautifying some of the blighted areas of our neighborhoods and business districts.

The unification of Franklin Hills, Los Feliz and Silverlake under one neighborhood council would preserve the integrity of our various residence and improve-

ment associations. The associations would be able to use the neighborhood council as a forum for communication but would still be able to maintain their discreetness as organizations. Most importantly, a greater area neighborhood council would get more attention from city officials. Our sheer size would present a formidable political force and would dissuade them from taking action without first requesting our input.

**Concluding Remarks**

We need more citizen participation in Los Angeles city government. Regardless of your views on neighborhood councils, they are here at least for the foreseeable future. We need to utilize them without getting caught up in the myopic view that one neighborhood council equals one neighborhood. We need to engage in farsightedness. Farsightedness means that we must use a greater area neighborhood council as a forum to facilitate communication between our neighborhood associations. Ultimately, we should use our neighborhood council as a primary step towards bringing true reform to Los Angeles City government.



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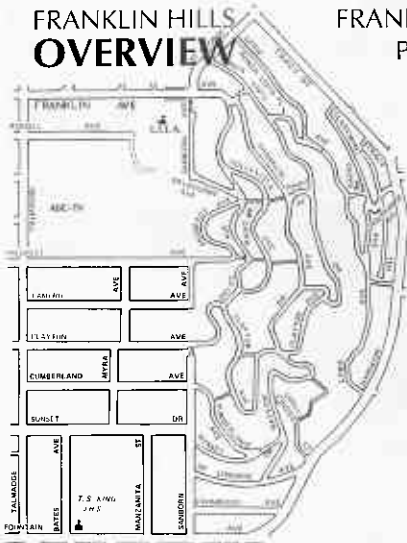
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**FRANKLIN HILLS OVERVIEW**

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