

OVERVIEW

FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

ISSUE No. 20

WINTER 2000



photo by Carol Skinner

Looking west from Franklin Hills: west out Hollywood Boulevard, on a clear fall morning.

COMMUNITY POLICING

SENIOR LEAD OFFICERS: Re-Deployed?

BY Carol Skinner

In October of this year the Los Angeles Times carried a short article announcing that the LAPD would be reinstating the Senior Lead Officer program in response to community demand. Ever since the SLOs were put back in the cars community activists all over the city had been writing letters and attending meetings to no apparent effect; so this was good news indeed. Follow-up information for this announcement has been nonexistent at this writing (early November.)

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Here's such information as could be gleaned at a Northeast Division Community Police Advisory

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LAPD Northeast:

Where Are All The Officers?

by Mary Rodriguez

This time last year I remember seeing bike patrol officers riding around John Marshall High and the Los Feliz business district on Hillhurst and Vermont Avenues. They were a much welcomed sight and a beneficial addition to our Community Police Center, 2nd floor of CalFed on Hillhurst. I remember seeing quite a few black & white patrol cars along Sunset Blvd. and Franklin Ave. driving around the neighborhood. Now I no longer see the friendly faces of the bike patrol because it was discontinued, due to fewer LAPD officers. Currently, the Northeast Division, which covers Los Feliz, Franklin Hills, East Hollywood, Silver Lake, Atwater, Griffith Park and many other communities east of the river, is down 29 officers and counting.

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Ricardo Gomez

Our June 7, 2000 annual meeting was a success. Approximately 150 residents attended the event at ABC-TV studios. FHRA sends its warmest thanks to the staff at ABC for making Rehearsal Hall One available and for the refreshments they provided, and to our neighbor Vivian Shea for providing her wonderful cookies. A special thanks to Nora Mosqueda of ABC who arranged the space for us. Nora grew up in our community and graduated from Marshall High School in 1969. She is president of the Marshall High School Alumni Association. The Association helps raise funds for Marshall and publishes an alumni newsletter three times a year. If you're a "lost" Marshall alumnus or would like to support the school, please contact the Alumni Office at (323) 953-6542 for more information. Again, thank you ABC for taking the time to get involved in your local community.

Attendance at our general meetings is very important because of the image it projects to City officials and politicians. The mere act of attending a meeting demonstrates significant community involvement and creates a visual "show of force" that tells our local politicians that we care about our community. When politicians walk into a community meeting the first thing they do is count heads. They are thinking of votes. Our feedback tells us that the June 7, meeting certainly passed the head count test. The City and State officials who attended the meeting were very impressed with the large turnout, the content of the program and the level of participation from the audience. Simply put, the large turnout at the meeting significantly increased my clout and that of the other board members when dealing with City government. Our calls are getting returned and the City is finally paying more attention to our local infrastructure needs. Thank you for attending the meeting and enabling FHRA to pursue its goal of improving our community.

Our accomplishments grow each year. We landscaped what was once just an asphalt median west of the bridge. We oversaw the restoration of the bridge. Those trees you see on Talmadge and Prospect avenues in the vicinity of ABC and elsewhere, we planted several years ago in a joint project with other community groups. More recently, FHRA has been instrumental in getting trees planted on Myra Avenue between Fountain Avenue and Santa Monica Blvd. Fourteen trees have been planted and another sixty are on the way. We had to get the City Council to pass a special motion to remove certain legal obstacles to this tree planting. We are actively involved in cleaning up the Myra Avenue underpass at Sunset Blvd. Thanks to lobbying from FHRA, we are finally getting streets re-paved. Sections of Franklin Ave and Cumberland Avenue were recently re-paved and we have a commitment from the City to re-pave several more streets in the area in the near future. We made a substantial contribution towards restoring the statue at King Middle School. We are actively involved in improving King and its surroundings. Recently we helped concerned parents lobby the Board of Education to designate King a computer learning center. These efforts succeeded and the Board approved the request. We are now waiting for implementation once some renovations are done.

There are many other FHRA accomplishments. I have highlighted a few to demonstrate that your membership dues, volunteer activities and attendance at meetings all have tremendous impact on the quality of life in your community. However, FHRA needs more membership participation. We need more volunteers to help us out with projects. If you have time to volunteer or know someone who does, please contact us. If you don't have time to volunteer, your membership dues and donations are greatly appreciated as is your atten-

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THE OVERVIEW — WINTER 2000

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ANNUAL MEETING HELD AT ABC LAST JUNE



photo by Bruce Carroll

Although it looks like FHRA's annual meeting was held in a forest last winter, the cool setting for the June meeting was really an ABC-TV rehearsal hall. A record turnout of over 150 neighbors enjoyed good company, some tasty snacks and re-elected five FHRA board members.

Those winning your vote of confidence: Peter Bedard, the newest board member whose efforts have spruced up the area around King Middle School; Ricardo Gomez, FHRA president; Charley Mims, FHRA secretary; Adam Weisman, FHRA Chairman; and Marcelle Zonta, FHRA transit chair whose aim is getting a DASH bus route connecting the Franklin Hills to the Red Line subway.

In addition to hearing that things at the FHRA were running well, we heard from several experts with suggestions on how to improve the level of service and responsiveness we get from various Los Angeles city departments. Plus the 56 new and renewing members who paid their FHRA dues at the meeting gave a great start to what has turned out to be a record year for FHRA memberships...breaking last year's record of 328.

October 21 saw a truly festive gathering on the bridge: the wedding of two prominent FHRA members. In fact, FHRA would like to claim credit for introducing them. Charley Mims (second from left) is our recording secretary and long time resource person on all matters constructional. Shirley Newland first appeared in these pages as "our lady on the bridge," observing and reporting on the earthquake re-construction and eventually becoming profoundly involved in the bridge party (see Overview 17) and other community events. To the left of Charley is Linda, the presiding minister, to the right of Shirley is her grandmother making sure her crown is right; then Diane Hampton and Shirley's father Bob Hampton, and almost out of the frame, Jean Hampton, Shirley's mother.



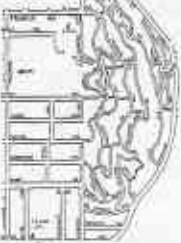
Last overview returned by Post Office

...
they couldn't find City Hall

The FHRA tries to keep in close touch with our city government but after we mailed the last issue of the Overview, we feared for a while that our leaders had skipped town and not left a forwarding address. But it appears that the Post Office has just updated the old saying "you can't fight city hall"...their version, "we can't find city hall."

FRANKLIN HILLS
OVERVIEW

FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
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THE OVERVIEW — SPRING/SUMMER 2000

LAPD, continued from page 1

There are many reasons that Northeast is losing officers including retirement, transfers and firings. The entire Los Angeles Police Department is down 1,000 employees. Many of these jobs are civilian, many clerical but somebody still needs to cover the "police" work. Who is covering this work? As for the patrol officers, it is very difficult to deter crime in Los Feliz when you are called across town to Eagle Rock to handle a situation because there are not enough officers covering the Eagle Rock, Highland Park, Cypress Park, Glassell Park, Elysian Valley, Mt. Washington areas; all parts of the Northeast Division.

The news reports that crime is on the rise. Many of us may have experienced this first or second hand. How will crime decrease with fewer patrols? Community policing would be one answer, but I am not convinced that officers from our side of the division, familiar with the problems in our area, are able to commit to patrolling and attending community meetings, especially when the call comes for them to assist with gang activity in the Figueroa Corridor in Mt. Washington.

Recently there were 2 murders along the Los Angeles River in Atwater. Apparently two local gang members encountered someone tagging in their area and shot him. A man biking along the newly installed city bike path may have witnessed the murder so he was killed, as well. Atwater and the Elysian Valley have heavy gang areas along the river. The city has greened, paved, beautified, and installed lights to encourage city dwellers to use the river for recreation, never addressing or alerting the community to the gang issues. The bike patrol should be reinstated along the river and the community should be apprised of the dangers of riding through the area.

Last June the General Manager of the Department of Recreation and Parks reached a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the LAPD Chief that would strip the City's Park Rangers of their law enforcement authority, including subduing violent individuals and making arrests. The Rangers could still enforce the leash law and issue parking tickets, relying solely on the LAPD Northeast Division to patrol and enforce the law in two of the City's largest urban parks, Griffith Park and Elysian Park. The surrounding communities would be severely impacted should this agreement be implemented at this time, when the Northeast Division is so understaffed. The Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners has not approved the MOA and has requested the department modify the plan for the larger parks.

Gang activity is becoming more prevalent in every community. I'm sure that you have noticed more graffiti than usual in the last year.

The dismantling of the CRASH Units in all of the divisions may have given the green light to some gang members. While the new Gang Detail officers are becoming experienced with gang members, boundaries, identities, etc., our communities are paying the price for too few patrol officers covering too large an area.

LAPD officers want to do a good job. They take pride in their work and in themselves. I personally know more than a few really good, intelligent, caring, and well meaning police officers. I hate it when I hear them apologize for what happened in Rampart, our neighboring division. It is a reflection on them, but it is not them. I am concerned about low morale. I recently asked some officers why in the world they would want to be LAPD. They laughed but they emphatically replied, "Because LAPD is the best in the world." Yes, it has to do with "1-Adam 12", and "Jack Webb." Those images remain carved in their minds as they aspire to protect and serve, sometimes against all odds.

As a law abiding citizen, a community activist and a member of the Los Feliz Improvement Association's Police Committee, I am very concerned that when the LAPD baby boomers hit retirement age, which begins next year, 2001, this city will experience a real crisis in crime management. The police academies are at the lowest enrollment they have ever been. What can LAPD offer young people for incentive? What can politicians do to encourage retiring officers to stay a while longer? I don't hear this subject discussed among any of the mayoral or city council candidates and that worries me. Next time you have the opportunity to speak with a candidate bring up the subject and please let me know what they say.

Mary Rodriguez lives in Los Feliz—just north of our bridge—and is a hard-working community activist, the mother of school age children and a frequent contributor to the Overview.



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Dead Animal Pickup (323) 227-7179

BARKING DOGS: (888) 452-7381

BRIGHT LIGHTS Streetlight repair: (800) 303-5267

BUILDING & SAFETY VIOLATIONS: 888-LA4BUILD

COUNCILMAN JOHN FERRARO, 4th District:

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FHRA HOTLINE (323) 664-7247 ; FHRA2000@hotline.com

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Emergency 911;

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TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT: (213) 485-2799

POLICE: EMERGENCY ONLY: 911

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

Northeast Division, 3353 San Fernando Road, LA 90065:

Problem Solving Unit: (213) 847-3136

Adult/Women Abuse: (800) 978-3600

Community Relations: (213) 485-2548

Gang Problems: (213) 485-7538

Graffiti: Officer Colenzo (213) 847-0511

LAPD on the net: <http://www.Lapdonline.com>

Main Desk: (213) 485-2563

Reports: (323) 485-4193

Sr. Lead Officer Al Polehonki: (213) 509-2964

Basic Car Coordinator: Sgt. Marcey

Basic Car Coordinator: Sgt. Williams

Traffic Enforcement (Speeding) (323) 485-2799

Los Feliz Outpost: (323) 913-4682

POISON CONTROL(800) 876-4766

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

WATER & POWER: (800) 342-5397

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

ANNUAL MEETING

continued from page 2

dance at general meetings.

We are still trying to make headway on certain problems in our community. The illegal street vending is still ongoing around King Middle School along with the attendant litter and loitering problems. The police response to enforcing the 500 foot no vending zone around the School has been tepid. We still have a significant problem with loitering and drinking near the Sunset Drive perimeter of King and with large groups of people loitering and drinking in front of the apartment buildings across from the school. The police response to this problem has been disorganized and ineffective. Abandoned couches, furniture and other bulky items are still a significant problem. We are still trying to get the City to reorganize the way it handles removing bulky items from our streets. In response to our lobbying, we were told that the Mayor increased the budget to purchase more trucks for bulky item pickup. However, this problem is far from being solved. We need to keep pressuring the City to reorganize this service. Street sweeping is irregular in the areas that need it the most. For example, the 4200 block of Fountain across from King Middle School (south side between Sunset Blvd. and Effie Street) has not been swept in over one year in spite of repeated complaints and inquires. Street services has offered no explanation for this service failure.

We have made tremendous progress in neighborhood improvement but we still have many problems to solve. We are a very small Board of Directors who have taken on a lot of work. If you are concerned about your community, take the time to contact us and find out how you can help out. We need fresh faces. All are welcome.



Photo and text by Bruce Carroll

*West on Franklin at Holly Knoll the road had a hump
A dangerous place...where cars went bumpity bump
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But the bottom line may be...
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Police Continued from page 1

Board (C-PAB) meeting in October. Probably 84 of the 168 SLOs will be re-deployed now and the rest in July. SLOs will once again be permitted /encouraged to attend C-PAB meetings. The Problem-Solving Unit ((213) 847-3136) will continue in operation, but as of now there is only one officer assigned to the unit (Officer Sandra Escalante) who will also be assigned to Community Relations and community meetings.

According to Captain Kyle Jackson, Northeast Commanding Officer, there is now a serious shortage of sworn personnel citywide and in Northeast. Every single body available is on the street to respond to emergencies. Officer Jennafer Johnson who has been working community relations (see article p.9) and Officer Frank Ellman who has been in CRO for many years are both reassigned.

Resource Centers



At a recent C-PAB meeting Rosa Rivas (l) and Barbara Lopez, Civilian Co-Chair, chat with Captain Kyle Jackson, Area Commander

Further impact on community policing: The community resource centers will be staffed part time only, except for the Los Feliz center above CalFed on Hillhurst, which will be manned full time on day watch by Of-

ficer Trujillo. The bicycle unit will be assigned primarily to East Hollywood and Los Feliz. The gang detail will be focused on the areas of greatest reported crimes: the Figueroa Corridor, Atwater, and Sunset Blvd. from East Hollywood to Silver Lake.

The soon-to-be-opened LAPD Historical Museum will be located in Northeast at the old Highland Park Station located at 6045 York Boulevard in Highland Park and will be staffed by Northeast officers

Toy Drive in December

On December 9 Northeast will host a Toy Drive for children of the Northeast Community. Toys will be given to any child up to age 13 who has some document (utility bill, school id, etc.) identifying them as belonging to Northeast. Seems that in the past children turned up from all over the city and then there were not enough toys to go around for our neighborhood children. Individual or corporate toy donations will be most welcome. Contact Officer Rita Vallejo at (213) 485-2548

Website

The LAPD Website is recommended reading for anyone interested in police matters. It is indeed a house publication, and the editorials are all by the chief, it is also well structured, colorful, easy to use and full of interesting items. After the site opens you get two pulldown menus to take you to a division or a story. Check it out. <http://www.LAPDONLINE.com/>

FHRAAlert

What's goin' on? Why not be among the first to know crime problems and other important events that could affect you and your neighborhood. You don't have to be an FHRA member to get these notifications, but we do need your e-mail address. We promise this system will be used very sparingly and we never sell or even lend our list.

It's just a quick neighborly notification of important safety news, community meetings, etc. Just send an e-mail to FHRA2000@hotmail.com ...let us know your name, e-mail address, and if you want to share it, your street address and phone number.

Also let us know of any ideas you might have about what you'd like our new FHRAAlert to let you know about.



photo and text by Bruce Carroll

MEDIAN MYSTERY SOLVED

In the last issue of the Overview we were distressed at a very large excavation in our Franklin Avenue Median and wondered who had made the "Mysterious Median Mess?" Well the answer to our question, "who coulda' done it?" turned out to be none other than contractors working for the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

They admitted to FHRA's Median Landscaping chairwoman Shirley Newland that the whole hole was made by mistake. As this recent photo shows (under Newland's constant nudging) the contractor finally refilled the hole, replaced the stone work that had been removed, repaired the irrigation lines that had been broken and replanted the plants.

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WHAT'S UP ON ROWENA?

by Charley Mims

Did you ever wonder what the Department of Water & Power has been doing at the old Rowena Reservoir site for the last two years? I did a little checking and found out that we have had a reservoir at this location since 1902. It was originally called the Wicks Reservoir and was reconstructed in 1910 when it was renamed the Rowena Reservoir. It had a wooden roof from 1910 to 1942 when extensive repairs were made and the wooden roof was removed.

The Rowena Reservoir serves as an emergency reserve and as a regulatory water storage site for portions of central Los Angeles. This site also became the home for the Landscape Maintenance and Pest Management Operations for DW&P. In January 1992 the Rowena Reservoir was drained and removed from service due to increased seepage of water through the earthen dam. The State of California's Department of Water Resources ordered this closure due to their concerns over whether the dam could hold up in an earthquake.

It took a long time to reach agreement with community activists from the Coalition to Preserve Open Reservoirs or CPOR. Mediated discussions were held in 1990, which led to an agreement to participate in a collaborative design study of alternative ways to recapture the functionality of the old reservoir. The design concept chosen was to build an underground tank to take the place of the old open reservoir. That left open the decision on what to do with the above ground part of the site, you know, the part that all of us neighbors see when we walk or drive by this property!



Well, the DW&P and the Rowena Water Committee, a sub-group of the CPOR, decided not to change the use of the site. This means that when construction is complete there will be no public access to the property. Agreement was also reached to landscape the surface areas and to include a water feature over a significant portion of the property. When you walk by, you can see the outlines of the water feature in the basin that has been constructed. New trees are being planted and the property will be landscaped and then fenced off to preserve the original use of the site as a utility service facility. Had the landscaped area been opened to the public, the DW&P would have had to do an EIR and would probably have had to provide off street parking and to widen Etrick Street north of the property.

The overall construction cost will exceed \$11,000,000.00 which will yield a safe new water storage facility with pump plant and the existing Landscape Maintenance and Pest Management Operations. What we will see is a lovely landscaped island in the middle of our residential community. Construction is progressing and the DW&P expects the new facilities to be operational and the landscaping complete within the next few months.

If you want additional information on this project, log on to their website at:

HYPERLINK

"<http://www.ladwp.com/water/projects/rowenaproject/index.htm>"
www.ladwp.com/water/projects/rowenaproject/index.htm

or call Kevin Brown, the Project Engineer, at 213-367-0834.

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The Northeast Beat

By LAPD Officer Jennafer Johnson

The month of October was very active for Northeast Area Community Relations. Your Northeast Area officers participated in 36 meetings. I would like to share two community meetings with you especially. The first meeting was initiated by our police officers and community members of Community-Police Advisory Board regarding the struggle against domestic violence in our area of Los Angeles. I certainly learned a tremendous amount of information during that gathering. The second community event, I am happy to say, was hosted here at our Northeast Area Community Police Station. It is a yearly attempt to open our doors to you and your families, We had a great turn-out

On Tuesday, October 10, 2000 the Community Police Advisory Board (C-PAB) hosted a Domestic Violence Symposium at the Eagle Rock High School. The C-PAB Domestic Violence Sub-Committee is to thank for the wonderful presentation. Those members include Claudia Cuevas, Rosa Rivas and Kaye Beckam. They facilitated a panel of speakers who were very knowledgeable about the cycle of domestic violence. The guest speakers were Deputy District Attorney Donna Wills, Social Worker of YWCA Glendale Arax Hoonitnian, Police volunteer for the Domestic Abuse Response Team (DART) Monica Harmon, Police Officer in charge of DART Yvonne Blanpied and Detective

III of Major Assault Crimes (MAC) Mirta Ramos. The audience truly benefited from the information these powerhouse speakers shared. The crowd participation during question and answer session was tremendous although only 35 people attended.

The Northeast Area Annual Open House and Crime Prevention Fair was a big success this year. The event was held on Saturday, October 14, 2000 at the Northeast Area Community Police Station. The station had the help of many Americorp volunteers; under the direction of C-PAB member Faye Clement Northeast Explorers were on hand to serve snow cones, nachos with cheese, hot dogs, carne asada and drinks. Reserve officers and other volunteers gave tours of the Northeast Area Community Police Station every 20 minutes. Children enjoyed the free giveaways from earthquake kits to toy airplane flyers provided by Business and Law Enforcement Northeast Division (BLEND). A live DJ played music for all ages as children enjoyed playing in the "moon bouncer." Other sights at the Open House included the LAPD Air Unit helicopter, K-9 dogs, Metro horses and several informational booths from the Northeast Area. The number of community members in attendance was just under 1000 people. What a wonderful way to unite!

Upcoming Events!

Northeast Area toy drive is scheduled for December 9, 2000 from 10:00 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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Calling All Gardeners

CALLING ALL GARDENERS

By Norm Harriton

Franklin Hills Residents Association is developing a community garden on the grounds of the *Lycee Internationale de Los Angeles*, the school below the Shakespeare Bridge. The garden site is located at the Sanborn perimeter of the school campus. The photo shows the plot on the east side of the LILA campus before your neighbors started its transformation.



photo by Bruce Carroll

The garden will occupy 7000 square feet and contain approximately 26 plots each fifteen feet by fifteen feet with paths four feet wide giving access to the individual plots. The ten plots closest to the school will be used by the school while the remaining sixteen will be available to residents of Franklin Hills on a first come first served basis. The garden will beautify both the campus and the neighborhood and provide educational benefits to the school students. The FHRA had a composite soil sample from the garden site analyzed for contaminants, and the lab report found the soil is suitable for growing vegetables.

Community gardens have been with us for hundreds if not thousands of years. Throughout Europe, many towns and cities have wonderfully rich and productive community garden plots, often on the banks of rivers and streams.

There was a major government campaign in the United States to establish Victory Gardens during World War II as a means of providing fresh fruits and vegetables for civilian consumption to replace the produce being diverted to feed the armed forces. While there were many backyard Victory Gardens, there were also community Victory Gardens established on public land. Such was the origin of Ocean View Farm established in the Palms district of Los Angeles in 1943. It was not a farm, but a conglomerate of hundreds of Victory Gardens.

The gardeners of Ocean View Farm continued working their plots after the war ended, and Ocean View Farm continues in operation today as a thriving community garden. Founded in 1973, Wattles Farm in Hollywood, located on a particularly lovely site, is a community garden made up of almost 300 individual garden plots, some of which are still being worked by the original gardeners. Dozens of smaller community gardens, the size of the one being developed by FHRA, have been established throughout the Los Angeles Area.

Gardening in a community garden can be much more fun than home gardening because the enthusiasm of participants is infectious, heightening the motivation of each gardener. In a community garden there is a sharing of expertise and a willingness to help others, much like what some of us experienced in rural communities. It is a testimonial to the rewards of community gardening that there are people in Los Angeles County who have worked their community garden plots for thirty years.



photo by Bruce Carroll
Wattles Gardens

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Working a plot in a community garden is healthful exercise, and offers the opportunity to escape to a bucolic retreat, commune with nature and refresh one's spirit. In short, it is a soul satisfying pursuit. If you haven't already reserved your plot, or want further information, contact Norm Harriton, Community Garden Coordinator at (323) 663-9695, or via e-mail at normhar@aol.com.



photo by Bruce Carroll

Garden Coordinator Norm Harriton ponders the prospects of turning this barren field on the LILA school campus into our very own community garden



photo by Bruce Carroll

Wattles Gardens

TAMING THE WILD

continued from page 21

nated by Armida Bolton. Ms. Bolton is a local resident and dedicated this rock to the memory of her late husband, Donald R. Bolton, who was himself a nature lover and long-time resident of Franklin Hills. The board felt it was appropriate to give this memorial a more visible presentation as you drive toward it. With the assistance of median designer, Melinda Taylor, the area will be redesigned and replanted with more fitting plants.

The median is a community project. Individuals are needed to help with the maintenance on such tasks as pulling weeds and digging out volunteer palm trees, keeping the plants trimmed around the memorial rock, and planting replacement plants. Each plant has its particular care requirements and some may look to you like a weed that you might want to pull if you are not familiar with the landscape. The longer you work out here the more you get to know about the plants. If you are interested in getting involved and learning more I will be happy to work with you and show you how to care for these beautiful and interesting plants. I will also welcome your help, it's a BIG island! Just a couple hours of your time can make a big difference. Please call the hotline and be sure to come prepared!!

(323) 664-7247; FHRA2000@hotmail.com

Elaine Ewing wields a powerful can of Graffiti Remover spray on the front steps of the forlorn apartment building at Talmadge and Sunset Dr.

Just as the spray can is the tagger's favorite weapon, it can also a powerful opponent. The Graffiti Remover spray works well on smooth, unpainted surfaces. Spray it on, wait a few minutes and wipe graffiti away. (See story on page 22)



photo by Bruce Carroll

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Thomas Starr King Middle School

Great Things Are Happening!

by Mary Rodriguez

The Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education, the Office of Student Integration Services, the Los Feliz Improvement Association's School Committee and the support of hundreds of parents, elementary school principals, and local politicians have made it possible for Thomas Starr King Middle School to host a Gifted/ High Ability Technology/ Arts Magnet for the 2001-2002 school year. This is a wonderful benefit for our community that will compliment John Marshall High School's Gifted & High Ability Magnet which began last year.

We are fortunate that our neighborhood could always boast of an excellent elementary school and high school, but not so with our middle school. Now that has begun to change. The Franklin Hills Residents Association and the Los Feliz Improvement Association have made a commitment to Thomas Starr King in the last few years by raising money, overseeing beautification projects for the campus, and initiating the Schools for Advanced Studies. Now academics is again being focused on by incorporating a Gifted/High Ability Magnet program and the atmosphere of the entire school is expected to change.

Principal Dr. Thelma Yoshii is determined to strengthen the school's already excellent technology department by incorporating a challenging, interdisciplinary academic program balanced with an emphasis on the arts. The new magnet classrooms will be equipped with cutting edge technology where students will work cooperatively to create projects. Specialized classes in technology and the visual and performing arts will also be incorporated into the curriculum. It is an exciting new opportunity that will hopefully change some misperceptions about Thomas Starr King.

Another change that will begin in the 2001-2002 school year is that King will become a multi-track year round school. Every school that buses 200 students or more automatically becomes a year round school. Currently King is not busing 200 children but it is anticipated that the 2002- 2003 school year will reach that number. So it was determined that making the change one year earlier would make an easier transition for the school since classrooms are already at a premium.

continued to page 18

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Los Feliz Branch

Los Angeles Public Library

by Pearl Yonezawa, Senior Librarian

The Library continues to improve services for the Los Feliz community. We encourage you to stop by and visit the library in person and check out what is new. We are also available for a virtual visit at [HYPERLINK http://www.lapl.org](http://www.lapl.org). You can search the catalog, reserve and renew materials and browse some of the databases from home, office or even on vacation. We now offer new library cards that come in a wallet & keychain style. You can exchange your old card for a new one at the front desk.

In addition to traditional materials, library patrons now have access to e-books, electronic versions of printed books which can be viewed and searched online from your home or office computer. Library card holders can set up a free account from the LAPL webpage and access over 1,500 non-fiction titles.

In early October the library premiered a new collection unique to our community. Los Feliz in Literature showcases non-fiction books about Los Feliz/Silver Lake and fiction taking place in Los Feliz and Silver Lake. Working together with Skylight Bookstore, a list of titles was developed earlier in the year. Individual donations and \$2,500 from the Friends of Los Feliz Library provided the necessary funding to purchase the first group of titles. This special collection is located along the Hillhurst wall of the library near the awards.

Staff has recently changed as Willow Nardoni-Teays replaces Robin Moon as the Young Adult/Teen Librarian. Willow is a local resident and has many new and fresh ideas to help area teens explore the library. A new Teen Council to advise the library on issues and materials of interest for 9 to 19 year olds is being started. For Teen Council information, please contact Willow at the library, (323) 913-4710.

For adults, we continued our author programs with Jane Smiley, Sidney Sheldon, T. Jefferson Parker, Phillip Margolis, Barbara Seranella, Yolanda Nava, Janet Fitch and Jan Burke each visiting the library. The LoungeChair Literature author chats will continue in 2001. In addition a Los Feliz Library Book Discussion Group meets the first Saturday morning of each month from 11:00-12:30. For information about either program, call Adult Librarian Catherine O'Connor at (323) 913-4710.

Internet Resource Workshops and Computer Comfort Classes are offered regularly by George O'Conner Adult Librarian. Each Internet Resource Workshop highlights specific topics such as health, travel, stocks, and food. The Computer Comfort Classes are designed to help show you how to use the library catalog and databases. Classes are limited to 6 participants at a time to allow for direct hands-on learning. Reservations can be made at the information desk.

continued on page 23

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We begin at the 1926 Shakespeare Bridge...

By Maurice Destouet

In preparing for this article, I interviewed a good friend of mine who is a fairly recent transplant into Franklin Hills. Jim Pond who hails from Philadelphia made a short residency detour into West Hollywood before moving onto Fernwood Avenue. Of all of the people I know who live on what is fondly referred to as "The Hill," Jim is the most active in exploring our environs.

Over the past few years, he strolls, climbs and breezes through Franklin Hills every Sunday morning and at least on one or two weekday evenings. The reason for active walking is his love of the architectural and gardening eye-feast that is so readily accessible in our neighborhood.

Jim is not just an avid walker, he is an informed one. His explorations were originally based upon a book written about one of Franklin Hills' most intriguing feature, its stairways. Jim used as his guide the seminal piece on the stairways of Los Angeles, *Stairway Walks in Los Angeles* authored by Adah Bakalinsky. In *Stairway Walks* the author wrote that the "Franklin Heights neighborhood is fortunate in having much variety geographical and architectural." Yes, that is the name by which this fair place was known. Spread over five pages, Franklin Heights is portrayed as not only a pleasant place to

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live, but also one with a unique place in the history of the city whose given name is the City of Our Lady, Queen of the Angels.

The eclectic nature of the homes of Franklin Hills and the views that sweep across the panorama that is Los Angeles sustain Jim's constant interest in discovering new vistas. In response to my inquiry on how our little part of the world kept him going back over the same terrain, he explained that every day is a different day and no two days are the same. The angle of the sun, the amount of cloud cover, a parked car moved to reveal a new view of an oft seen garden, and the feel of the air make the same streets a constant new journey. He walks the same street from different directions and finds newness and a fresh feeling for the same old route. And he is not easily amused. Hailing from homes in the West Mt. Airy and Queen Village sections of Philadelphia, Jim was raised on architectural details. His pre-Philadelphia days were spent in Haddonfield, New Jersey where he was a Trustee of the Historical Society. If you are not familiar with West Mt. Airy, Queen Village and Haddonfield, they are very environmentally and architecturally wonderful places to live. So, if this aficionado of residential design and gardens can find reason to walk continually throughout Franklin Hills, we can all be assured that if we are not doing the same, we are really and truly missing out on the chance of a lifetime.

Jim has been an inspiration to my exploring Franklin Hills. Although his walks often take him beyond the confines of The Hill and into Silver Lake and the scapes of Los Feliz, I have yet to venture beyond The Hill. But I have discovered some of our nooks and crannies. My collie loves my new found interest and is ready to hit the streets anytime. Where I used to spend Sunday mornings walking with him in Griffith Park, we now spend that time appreciating all that is right next door.

Another guidebook that will take you on the byways of Franklin Hills is *Los Angeles—An Architectural Guide*. Jointly authored by David Gebhard and Robert Winter, it provides a history lesson on the houses whose addresses appear in its pages. Jim highly recommends the use of both books to give you a real feel for where we live.

Stairways provides the directions to the stairways of Franklin Hills from which "new vistas continually emerge" and along which "the terrain of hilly, circular streets adds personality . . . and determines how one gardens. Stairway's author wrote: "I enjoy seeing the strong sculptural shapes of cacti

and succulents—the desert saguaro, the century plant, the barrel cactus—alongside the lyrical shape of native California bunchgrass." The *Guide* in a much less lyrical presentation format takes us to Elliot House on Newdale Drive, Gogol House on Talmadge, Schlesinger House on Myra, the Streamline Modern apartment house on Franklin, our own "Collegiate Gothic" John Marshall High School and the eternally peaceful Shakespeare Bridge.

It's a great place we have here in Franklin Hills. Take some time to get to know it. Who knows what discoveries are yet to be made on the stairways and byways of The Hill?



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-They're Almost Here-

But What Are They? Neighborhood Council Update

By Bruce Carroll

A couple of months back most of you probably received a thirty page document from the City's new Department of Neighborhood Empowerment-acronymically speaking DONE. But reading behind its cheery yellow cover you'll find far more to be done than has been done. The problems are many, the answers are few.

After a citywide round of workshops in the spring seeking a formula for forming Neighborhood Councils DONE's general manager, Rosalind Stewart concluded there was "no clear consensus about what shape they should take." FHRA President Ricardo Gomez, who's been one of the leaders in trying to mold a Neighborhood Council in our area believes, "the workshops failed to produce a model for a neighborhood council because DONE offered no concrete examples of

form or structure. Participants came and left in a state of confusion about what form neighborhood councils are supposed to take and they were even less clear on what they are supposed to do."

As far as council form, the yellow covered "First Draft Plan for a Citywide System of Neighborhood Councils" inched things just a bit further. The plan is high in broad concepts, listing "desired characteristics" for councils as, "Organic-Inclusive.. Transparent-Independently Evolving." It also deals with setting boundaries for councils which "will be comprised of a minimum of 25,000 residents and a diverse range of non-residential stakeholders."

But what goes on within those boundaries, how representatives are chosen, can the will of large neighborhoods overpower the small, can business interests override residents' fears? All that remained formless with only the most basic requirements that to be certified as a Neighborhood Council a group must present a "Mission Statement-By-laws-Budget-Open Meeting Procedures-Diversity" and lastly a "Code of Ethics" which includes "Obeying the Law."

One other thing the councils need is an e-mail address so the city can send all the information on proposed new laws and other city actions to the Neighborhood Councils as part of the Early Notification System.

While the city has been struggling to get its act together the same thing has been happening in our area led by residential groups like FHRA and counterparts from Los Feliz, Silver Lake and Atwater. The joint meetings, held every three weeks since August, perhaps have proved why the city's plans are so vague. Short of another city sponsored election how do you choose representatives?

The thinking in our area is representation should be based on the strong groups like FHRA that already exist and over time have worked well with other groups in the area. But how do we represent people who are not part of our groups? How do we apportion

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Representatives from Franklin Hills, Los Feliz, Silverlake and Atwater discuss pros and cons of various approaches to creating a Neighborhood Council. The frequent meetings have been constructive and peaceful so the crossed swords remained high on the wall at the meeting room provided by the Tam O'Shanter Restaurant

photo by Bruce Carroll

representation between large and small groups? That's the same thorny question that the folks who wrote the US Constitution faced 213 years ago. They created the Senate to empower the small states and the House to favor the strong, but how complicated a Neighborhood Council do we want?

And once our council is formed what will it be able to do? As mandated in the new City Charter the councils have no legal powers, just a voice. Since there are likely to be many plans that foster controversy within the council, as well ones that bring consensus, can the council raise a loud voice for or against a controversial project? Or should it merely be

the conduit for passing city plans to participating groups for them to raise their voices?

The time is coming ever closer when these decision have to be made. The city's timetable is to have the next draft Neighborhood Council plan in the hands of the Mayor and City Council in December with approval of some plan around June 2001.

As FHRA President Gomez notes, "The work is challenging but the company is pleasant. If you are interested in participating in the neighborhood council creation process, please contact the FHRA and we will bring you up to speed and put you to work." Even if you don't have the time we eagerly welcome your ideas by phone (323-664-7247) e-mail (FHRA2000@hotmail.com) or snail mail (PO Box 29122, Los Angeles, CA 90029). Gomez adds, "We are confident that we will be able to create the framework for a neighborhood council before June of next year. The council most likely will be composed of representatives from Atwater, Franklin Hills, Los Feliz, Silver Lake and a portion of East Hollywood."

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PUZZLED ABOUT NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS?

Where Do We Fit In?

By Bruce Carroll

Nearing the end of a year when we have seen more polls than pols, it seems fitting that the Overview should join the in (for inquisitive) crowd with our second annual Franklin Hills poll.

Within the coming year Franklin Hills, like all neighborhoods in the City of Los Angeles, will find its territory included in at least one of the Neighborhood Councils envisioned by the new city charter which took effect in July. While the clay for this process is still a very soft malleable blob, one fact is certain, we are far too small to have our very own neighborhood council.

The first draft of the basic council structure suggests a minimum population of 25,000 per council. Even if we each invited four friends over for dinner we'd have a hard time reaching that number. So we've been looking to find compatible neighbors to council with?

The most often suggested choices are Silver Lake on the east, Los Feliz on the north, and Hollywood which we look beyond to watch the setting sun. Each of us probably has affinities with all of three communities, but it's highly unlikely that all would wind up in the same neighborhood council. As reported elsewhere in this and previous issues of the Overview (see They're Almost Here-page 16) the councils will be only an advisory arm of city government. The method of selection is largely up to each group seeking to be recognized as a neighborhood council. There have been talks of alliances between Hollywood and Los Feliz, between, Los Feliz, Silver Lake and Atwater to the northeast, between Silver Lake and Echo Park, etc., etc., etc.

Where are your friends? Where do you shop? Where are your schools? Where are your houses of worship? Where do you most loathe the traffic? Where are your favorite restaurants, bars and clubs? In short, where do you think our Franklin Hills interests belong?

- A. Join a Council with Silver Lake
- B. Join a Council with Los Feliz
- C. Join a Council with Atwater
- D. Join a Council with Hollywood
- E. Forget about Councils—let's ditch LA and join the proposed City of Hollywood
- F. None of the above—secede from the US, form our own country and ask for foreign aid to fix the potholes.

Although it may look like a multiple choice test, here we don't yet know the right answer and you are free to choose as many options as you like. And/or give us your comments below.

- You can mail this page to: FHRA Poll PO Box 29122,
Los Angeles, CA 90029
- You can e-mail us your vote at:
FHRA2000@hotmail.com
- You can phone our message line 323-664-7247
(please leave your name, phone number, and address)
- Your input can be the compass that helps the FHRA navigate uncharted waters as we sail into the domain of neighborhood councils.

King School continued from page 12

Unlike most magnet schools which begin with one grade the first year and incorporate an additional grade each year thereafter, King will begin with all three grades at once. That is 6th, 7th, and 8th grades will all be open for enrollment to any student throughout LAUSD that applies through the CHOICES application brochure and is accepted. The brochure comes out in November 2000 and is due sometime in January 2001.

The Thomas Starr King magnet will hold 270 students for the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade. It is anticipated that the 6th grade will fill up first and that the 7th & 8th grades may not reach capacity in the magnet programs first year. As a parent of a 7th grader I see this is as a unique opportunity where a reduced class size and more individual teaching time could greatly benefit students, not to mention the accrued matriculation points toward entering John Marshall's magnet program. These students would be more than prepared for the academics of high school.

Repeatedly we hear about the poor quality of education in the LA Unified School District. Our local middle school and members of our community are working toward changing that perception and they can use all the help available. Please support our efforts by spreading the word about Thomas Starr King's new magnet program as well as the Schools for Advanced Studies, which is another Gifted & Talented Program for academic excellence. "It takes a village to raise a child" and what better village than ours.

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It's No Halloween Magic, But Graffiti Disappears By Bruce Carroll

Graffiti is one of those things that most Angelenos sadly take for granted, but Franklin Hills resident Eric Frase takes it as a challenge. With paint buckets, rollers and special anti-graffiti spray he prowls the neighborhood looking to undo the evil deeds of area taggers and early this fall he noted, "While we've been pretty successful in keeping the Hills clear of 'vertical' graffiti (on walls, buildings, signs, mailboxes, etc.) I noticed after walking to my cleaners at Sunset and Lucille that there is an incredible amount of graffiti on our neighborhood's sidewalks, especially around King Middle School."



Sidewalk graffiti doesn't scare Lincoln Castillo, Eric Frase and Elaine Ewing (l-r) as they roll it into oblivion next to King Middle School in this year's pre-Halloween sidewalk paint-out.

To correct the problem he organized a pre-Halloween sidewalk graffiti paint-out. The idea, to treat trick-or-treaters to clean sidewalks in the hope they wouldn't treat our streets to

more of their destructive designs. Despite gloomy gray skies Frase and a small band of helpers set out along Talmadge, Sunset, Bates, Manzanita, Cumberland and up to Franklin. After a couple of hours Frase estimated they had covered well over 100 aesthetic assaults on our sidewalks, signs, utility poles, trash cans, walls etc.

High on Frase's list of tips for fighting graffiti is speed, "The first day you see it try to get rid of it right away." To make that happen he explains, "I keep a can of gray and a can of beige spray paint in the trunk of my car. I just pull over and hit it."

During the pre-Halloween paint-out, while Frase's crew was obliterating some bus bench graffiti, they were approached by a resident with a cell phone who said he'd just finished calling the LAPD about the graffiti-ed bench. You too can leave a message about graffiti sightings for Officer Colenzo of the LAPD's Northeast Division at 213-847-0511. His unit supervises reforming taggers who are assigned to paint out graffiti.

There are two more ways you can help the FHRA and Frase erase graffiti. The first is as easy as calling the FHRA at 323-664-7247 or sending e-mail to FHRA2000@hotmail.com. Let us know the exact location and the color paint needed to cover the graffiti. The second is join in the paint-out and wipe-off efforts either by assisting Frase or on your own. The FHRA will even reimburse you for materials.

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Grass Roots

by Peter Bedard

Have you ever walked under an overpass and been assaulted by the unpleasant smell of human feces and urine? To experience this, take a walk along Myra Avenue beneath Sunset Boulevard. It isn't fun! This is a part of our neighborhood that has been seriously ignored. Now is the time to do something about it.



photo by Bruce Carroll



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Recently, Mary Rodriguez and I organized a Neighborhood Watch/Problem Solving meeting which was hosted by Lucent Technologies. It was a huge success. Many residents are fed up with the city's lack of response to the ongoing (trash and homeless) problems in the area. Many parents were upset that their children had to walk through garbage to get to school.

The meeting turned out to be very successful, with many city departments showing and a large neighborhood turn out. Lupe Franco from Councilman John Ferraro's office and Assemblyman Scott Wildman himself showed up to support our cause. Each representative made a commitment to help improve the area and we hope they will follow through and make a positive impact.

I learned a valuable lesson from this meeting. There are many people who care about where they live but the numbers decrease when you ask people to become involved. Even so, I believe this small group of people can make a tremendous change. We formed a Beautification Committee which will oversee the planting of trees and organize street clean-up days with the help of the Bureau of Street Services. We also formed an Underpass Committee which will focus on the immediate problem of illegal dumping and homeless people living in the "locked" stairways that formerly connected Myra to Sunset Boulevard. They are also looking into the possibility of either painting a mural, planting vines or installing a lighted art installation under the bridge.

If you are interested in improving any part of your neighborhood, go do it. It takes time and changes come slowly but with a lot of patience you can do it. If we all make our voices heard by calling the proper city departments and continually working with them, then we can have an impact. If you would like to be part of this dynamic mix please contact me through the FHRA Hotline. We can use your help and your voice.

Keep your eyes open because things will change. That's my promise to you. Come lend a hand and be a part of this change for the better.

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TAMING THE WILD

by Shirley Newland

Heed the advice from the speech given in the modern version of Romeo & Juliet - wear sunscreen, especially if you plan to work on the median. Unlike the classic story there is no romance about working out here. The work is rewarding but it is a harsh environment. Cars honk, people throw trash, careless drivers race by, thorny spikes may poke you if you don't watch out, and the sun beats down relentlessly. Without proper precautions, like sunscreen and heavy gloves, it can be formidable, to us humans that is. To the plants, it's just another day in their natural habitat.

The plants on the median are California natives and quite hardy. As the past five years have shown they can stand up to extreme conditions and still continue to flourish and thrive. Working closely with them I have a deepened appreciation for the beauty and strength of this garden. Some plants have been lost, however, mostly due to the sometimes haphazard hand of man.

Since the printing of the last Overview we got to the bottom of the mystery hole that was dug into the median. The hole was dug as part of the Department of Water and Power's (DWP) cement relining project. (see page 7) Unfortunately for both us and DWP's contractor this particular hole was not necessary. Where they meant to dig, and eventually did, was above the median in the roadway. With the influence of fellow board member Charley Mims and after a visit from the project inspector from the city of Los Angeles' De-

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partment of Public Works, the contractor was more willing to cooperate with us and rebuilt the part of the median that they dug out. From original photographs and design specs the contractor rebuilt the rock walls as close to original as possible. The contractor also replaced all the plants that were destroyed by their excavation and has promised to replace any of those that die over a six-month establishment period.

We were unable to run the water system for a while after we discovered that the contractor had also broken a main water pipe that runs along the curb. Every time the water was turned on their hole would flood from the break in the pipe. Once the pipe was repaired we then discovered that the automatic timer system was faulty. The water system was run manually for some time until we were able to fix the problem. You probably saw me out there during my weekly trips to turn the valves on and off. Thanks to another fellow board member, Bruce Carroll, and with his mechanical tinkering ability, everything should once again be running automatically by the time this article is published.

Another item that will be done by the time you read this is the removal of the pampas grass. It is a beautiful showpiece on the median but it grew too large for its place thusly earning its nickname "pompous grass." The decision to remove it was made for two reasons. Foremost was for the safety of people crossing the median. One had to stand in the narrow street to see around the plant and check for oncoming traffic. I am sure you can see how dangerous this is. The second reason was to lower the line of sight on the east-bound approach. Behind where the pampas grass stood is a memorial rock do-

continued on page 11



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A Clean Sweep of the Stairway

Elaine Ewing, Bob Page and
Adam Weisman

Anyone who has walked along the causeways of Franklin Hills will notice a series of 14 stairways that connect our streets. These stairways were built during the Depression era and have remained in fairly good condition. Since Proposition 13 passed, however, our city has spent much less time with their upkeep. This has led to garbage, tagging, and overgrowth of adjacent gardens, and in many cases to uninviting or dangerous passageways. FHRA has worked over the years to reverse this trend and promote the use and maintenance of the 14 stairways.

On a clear Saturday morning, July 22nd, residents of FHRA rolled up their collective sleeves and began the clean sweep. It was before the dog days of Summer began to wave their tails of warmth. News was transmitted via e-mail and word of mouth that a stairway in Franklin Hills was getting cleaned (which is a good reason to let us know your e-mail address) Elaine Ewing, a resident volunteer, presented a project to the FHRA Board to clean up the upper section of Prospect Walk between Hollyvista and Franklin. Elaine lives near the stair, which functions as her personal "stairclimber." Adam Weisman, who has been involved with the stairway since he became an FHRA member, assisted in the promotion, tools, and other logistics. Bob Page was coaxed into providing his home as the base of operations.

While the project was in development, Bob Page was heavily involved in the upcoming Democratic National Convention. After agreeing to be the trail-side refuge for the volunteer clean-up, he became glabella deep involved in a political musical comedy production in Pasadena. Because of these pressures, he limited himself to getting water bottles, coffee, a card table and chairs. In a fatigued state, Bob watched as a number of volunteers came forth. Elaine, Adam, Jim Pond, Ray Rath, Norm Harriton, Barbara Tuss, Libby Simon, and others arrived with gloves, tools and an appetite for cleaning. Bob watched as residents marched forth (and upwards) to rip, pull, tear out, cut, trim, and sweep the steep and lengthy upper section of Prospect Walk. Bob commented, that "Elaine....arrived in disgustingly pert and healthy shape, looking for all the world as if she could conquer the stairs with abundant good cheer...and a baton." Bob was exhausted by the vigor of the troop and gawked upwards to hear voices through a virtual cloud of dust. The assault was in full glory.

He found solace in a small area of the wall near his home that needed clearing, and proceeded to make a minuscule dent.

The stair "gang" enjoyed their efforts so much (and so fast), that we sought another stairway to plunder. Adam acted as a sentry to seek out a nearby stairway that needed work. He returned and directed the group to the lower Radio Walk stairway. Like ants to a sugar cube, the gang sped off and a dust cloud emerged along another area of Franklin Hills for a few hours. While the group did not inform Radio Walk residents of the stair cleaning, through diplomatic skill and the spirit of neighbors, the cleaning was successful.



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Elaine commented, "It is not often that we can work for 2 1/2 hours with new and old friends and have the actual satisfaction of a job completed."

The effort went so well that the stair gang wants to clean the other 12 stairways. As has been said before, most of the stairways are well maintained by the residents who live adjacent to them. However, there area number of stairways that lie between untamed backyards and in rural zones that need our help. In the coming months, the group would like to tackle another two stairways. If you would like to suggest a certain stairway or would like to join in the work detail, please call Elaine Ewing (323-662-3757).

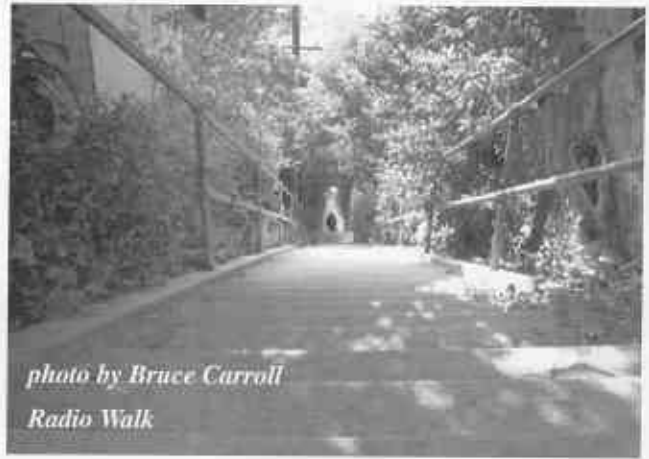


photo by Bruce Carroll
Radio Walk

Library continued from page 13

The Friends of Los Feliz Library hold a monthly book sale on the 4th Saturday of each month. Money raised at the sales is used to supplement Children's and Teen programs. To join the Friends Group call (323) 661-2629.

The Los Feliz Library League started a new lecture series featuring architects, doctors and other speakers. The lectures are on the 3rd Thursday evening of each month with refreshments provided by café Los Feliz. The League also donated \$10,000 for an Audio Book collection of popular adult fiction, \$5,000 for new mysteries and arranged for an additional \$10,000 donation for Children's Book and Tape sets from the Los Angeles Times Reading by 9 Foundation. For information about the lectures or to join the League, contact the offices of Elisabeth Klock and Associates Realtors at (323) 644-9449.

The library will be closed for Thanksgiving on Thursday, November 23rd and Friday, November 25th. We will be closed from 12:30 on December 22nd until 12:00 noon Tuesday, December 26th to celebrate the holidays.

The entire Los Feliz Library staff wishes our Franklin Hills neighbors an excellent holiday season and a safe New Year. We look forward to see you all at the library in 2001.

HELP SKYLIGHT BOOKS DONATE TO FRANKLIN HILLS PROJECTS

As a way to celebrate its 4th anniversary, and to demonstrate its continuing commitment to the neighborhood, local independent bookstore Skylight Books is inaugurating a 'neighborhood thanks' program, and one of its first recipients is Franklin Hills for its beautification projects, such as the Myra Avenue Corridor, King School project, and stairway cleanups. At no cost or obligation to the customer, Skylight will donate 2% of the total sales (between now and the end of this year) of any customer who 'signs up' at the time of sale—to the Franklin Hills beautification programs.

Skylight opened on Nov 1, 1996, at the site of the former Chatterton's Bookshop on Vermont Avenue, next door to the Los Feliz Cinema. Since its opening, that section of Vermont has become a lively, thriving street, with new restaurants, shops and a real 'walkable' neighborhood. From the beginning, Skylight has shown its commitment to the community with local events and programs, including continuing projects supporting the Los Feliz Branch Library. In another 'pilot' project to better serve the surrounding neighborhood through the holidays, Skylight will offer free residential book delivery in the area until Dec 20 with a mention of our ad in this newsletter.

For further information, call, visit or email.
(323) 660-1175
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Larger contributions are extremely welcome. Thank you for joining FHRA!

Overview Poll Results:

A Clean Sweep By Bruce Carroll

Last year, about this time, the first FHRA Overview poll prompted participants to ponder "To Sweep or Not to Sweep?" That was the question. Whether 'twas nobler (and cleaner) to suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous parking tickets. Or to take petitions against the rumbling street sweepers. And by opposing end them? To desist: to sweep no more. No longer to shovel off our mortal soil. From Shakespeare's Bridge to Hyperion Ave. The pro-sweeping opinion swept the poll by a vote of 20-13. You said you'd rather continue to put up with the No Parking regs than have to put up with increasing gutter dregs.

We heard from 10 residents by mail...there the vote was: 6 for sweeping 4 to end the parking restrictions.

We heard from 10 residents by e-mail...with opposite results. By a 6-4 margin they were the only group who favored doing away with the parking restrictions and weekly sweeping. If we had only heard from e-mail and snail-mail voters, the outcome would have been a tie, 10-10.

But we also got 13 phone calls and they were overwhelming. Only three callers wanted to eliminate sweeping. The other 10 calls all supported leaving the sweeping status quo. For you conspiracy theorists 6 of the calls were from nameless persons and some voices tended to sound very much alike.

Interestingly many who supported the Signs and Sweepers expressed more concern that our streets would be clogged with abandoned or permanently parked cars than an abundance of leaves and papers.

A Fernwood Ave. resident wrote: "The restrictions are a small price to pay for cleaning the streets and stopping residents and others from leaving cars parked forever."

An anguished Mayview Dr. couple had a different perspective, "We literally have to leave our home in order to avoid a ticket because there is no alternative parking."

"Street cleaning is worthless," wrote a Hollyvista Ave. couple. "It tosses the dirt around and I have to clean the mess he leaves."

But down the hill, Richard Johnson on Ronda Vista Ave. near St. George St. made the most careful analysis of the problem. "Residents on the top of the hill have it made. Let the wind blow, sweep or hose the leaves down to the next neighbor. But what happens at the bottom of the hill? Do we expect lower residents to do the work of others?"

As to the dilemma of where to park your car during street cleaning, Johnson had a novel suggestion, "use the garage for what it was made for, the vehicle. Not worldly possessions."

The Overview Poll for this month is the current and hot issue of Neighborhood Councils: with whom do we elope? See the article and poll on pages 16-18 and give us your response. FHRA will speak for the will of the residents, as far as we know it.

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