



OVERVIEW

FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

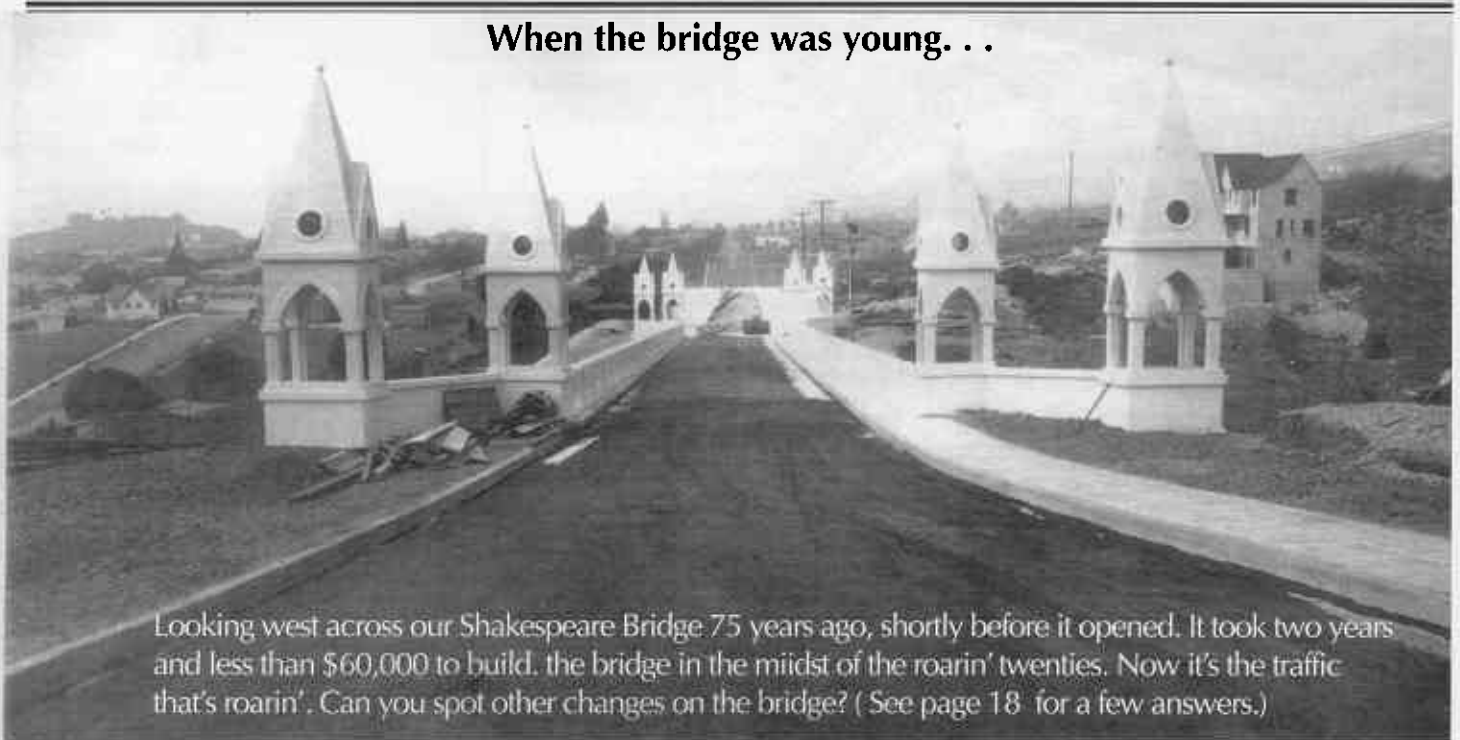
ISSUE No. 21

SPRING/SUMMER 2001

ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 13 7 P.M. AT ABC

ENTER ON PROSPECT AVE JUST EAST OF TALMADGE; THE GUARD WILL GIVE YOU PARKING DIRECTIONS

When the bridge was young. . .



Looking west across our Shakespeare Bridge 75 years ago, shortly before it opened. It took two years and less than \$60,000 to build the bridge in the midst of the roarin' twenties. Now it's the traffic that's roarin'. Can you spot other changes on the bridge? (See page 18 for a few answers.)

FRANKLIN HILLS IS ON THE THRESHOLD OF PARTICIPATING IN A GREATER AREA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

By Ricardo Gomez, FHRA President

On June 2, 1999, Los Angeles voters approved a new City Charter. The new Charter, in addition to giving the mayor greater powers, mandated the creation of a citywide system of neighborhood councils. The Charter created the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) and charged it with the task of creating the citywide system of neighborhood councils. The purpose of the councils is to increase citizen participation in government.

Franklin Hills does not meet the minimum population requirement to create its own neighborhood council and therefore our only realistic alternative is to partner with our neighboring communities. As noted in previous editions of the Overview, we are working with representatives from Atwater Village, Los Feliz and Silver Lake to form a greater area neighborhood council. Its provisional name is the Greater Griffith Park Council,

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WHAT IS A NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL?

A neighborhood council is an advisory body that is supposed to promote participation in City government and make it more responsive to local needs. The members of the neighborhood council are called stakeholders. A stakeholder is any person who resides, works or otherwise defines himself as having an interest within the boundaries of the council (e.g., parents with children in a school or attendees of a church within the boundaries). The council must have bylaws that govern its operations and provide for a method of selecting its board. Board members may be "elected or selected" to their positions. The resulting board must reflect the various classes of stakeholders within the community such as residents, businesses and other enumerated classes. The board is the operational unit of the neighborhood council. Its organizational function is identical to that of a non-profit corporation such as a residents or business association. The board's operations must be "transparent", that is, all meetings must be open to the public.

The City Council and certain City departments are required to notify the neighborhood council of proposed legislation and regulations. The City is attempting to develop an early notification system (called "ENS"). The ENS will notify neighborhood councils of proposed decisions probably via email. The neighborhood council board will be responsible for notifying stakeholders of the proposed decisions. The board will get input from the community so that it can take a position on a particular matter if called for. The neighborhood council will be responsible for monitoring the delivery of City services to its area and shall meet with City officials on a regular basis. The neighborhood council will be

able to recommend budget priorities to the Mayor.

Neighborhood Councils are supposed to be independent from the City and may be eligible for City grants. They can be incorporated as non-profit organizations. The minimum population size of a neighborhood council area is 20,000 residents. The persons forming the council determine the boundaries (there is no maximum size) with the proviso that, to the extent feasible, they must avoid splitting an existing community.

A neighborhood council is similar to other non-profit neighborhood associations except that its membership and operating criteria are set by City regulations. Existing associations such as the Franklin Hills Residence Association already handle many "neighborhood council" functions and do so without taxpayer funding. The question is, how will these councils add value to the services already provided by our existing network of community associations?

THE PROBLEM PRESENTED

The development of a network of neighborhood councils presents significant problems for communities like Atwater Village, Franklin Hills, Los Feliz and Silver Lake where we have a history of active community groups. We don't want the neighborhood council to create another layer of bureaucracy between the community and government. One significant problem is the scarcity of volunteers available to do community work. Within the Franklin Hills Residents Association (and in most other community associations that we are aware of) we find it difficult to recruit enough volunteers to accomplish what we really want to. This is understandable. People have to work and they have a home life. To staff a neighborhood council with volunteers will not be an easy task and may create competition between the neighborhood council and community groups for volunteers. We may end up losing if this occurs. If the neighborhood council is going to sub-

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THE GREATER GRIFFITH PARK COUNCIL

stantially duplicate the work already being done by neighborhood and business associations, then what is the point of having a neighborhood council? Do we really want to invest taxpayer funds in such a venture?

When community representatives from Atwater Village, Franklin Hills, Los Feliz and Silver Lake began meeting last August, our principal concern was how will neighborhood councils add to our efforts to improve our communities? We realized that to be effective, a neighborhood council must not duplicate the functions of existing community groups. We realized our shortcomings, that our respective communities, standing alone, do not have a substantial presence in relation to the rest of the City when it comes to getting our fair share of City services. Therefore, we felt that our neighborhood council should bring our respective communities together to address the common issues that seem to continually escape us (police deployment, blight, adequate street services, beautification projects, etc.). We felt that our resulting size would give us a regional presence in relation to the rest of the City, such as the Valley and Westside where their sheer size seems to give them more clout when garnering City resources.

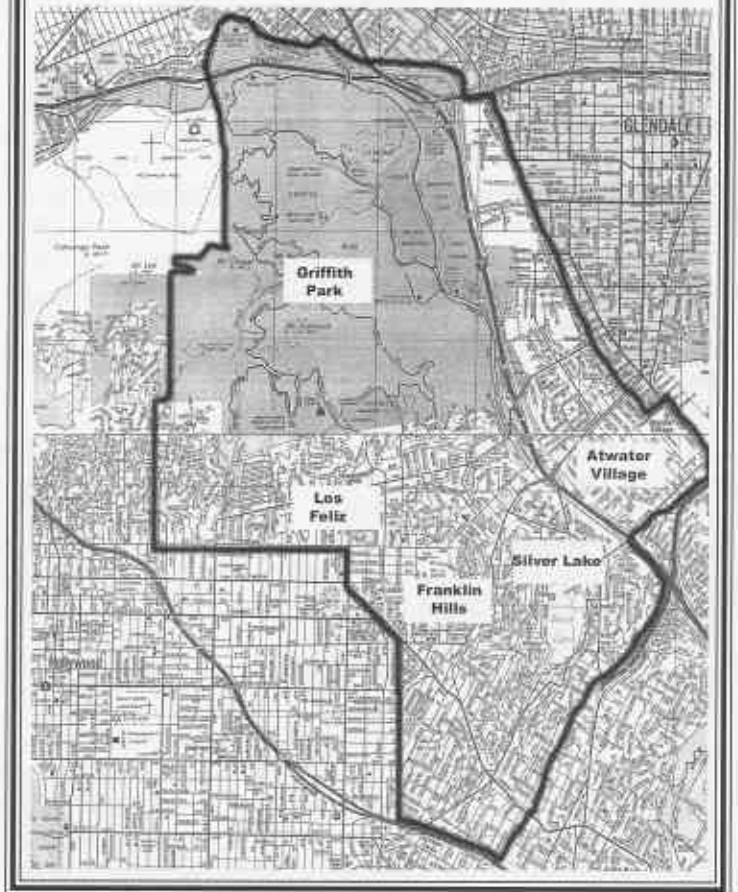
We expect the Greater Griffith Park Council (GGPC) to evolve and fill existing voids in our respective communities. We hope that it will strengthen our political clout in relation to those who continually threaten our efforts to maintain and improve our communities. Presently the GGPC looks like a federation of our four communities. We are in our infancy so what we end up with may be very different from what we start with. Our premise is that we want to work together and that is what continues to hold us together.

STRUCTURE

The membership of the GGPC will consist of all stakeholders who live, work, own property or a business within the defined area (see map above,) or, who otherwise identify themselves as stakeholders. The GGPC Board will constitute the basic operating unit of the Council. The Board will consist of community representatives who staff the primary operations of the Council and who advocate positions for the Council. The Board members' duties are similar to those executed by board members of community associations except that there are extensive duties imposed by City ordinance.

The GGPC Board will consist of 21 members. There will be four members selected from each of the four communities (Atwater Village, Franklin Hills, Los Feliz and Silver Lake). There will be five at large members who may be appointed by the members of the Board to ensure diversity in representation. Each of the four communities will decide how to select its Board members provided that their selection process and results reflect the diversity of stakeholders in their community to the extent feasible. Organizations that repre-

PROPOSED BOUNDARIES FOR THE NEW GREATER GRIFFITH PARK COUNCIL



sent identifiable stakeholder groups, such as residence associations and business associations, may select a Board member from within their group. However, we have not reached a consensus on how each community will select its Board members. Currently, each of our communities is developing a selection/election process. If you have any suggestions, please come forward.

The GGCP Board will establish committees staffed by stakeholders. Committee membership is open to all stakeholders and broad participation will be encouraged. The following committees are envisioned as standing committees and other committees will be formed as needed: The Early Notification System (ENS) Committee will be the most demanding because it will coordinate the receipt and dissemination of information received from the City through the ENS. The Budget and City Services Committee will work on City budget matters including the submission of proposed budget items (or a proposed budget) to the Mayor. This committee will also monitor the delivery of City services to our area. The Issues Committee will shift through issues and determine who should handle them. The Stakeholder Communication and Outreach Committee will make sure that stakeholders are aware of the GGCP and will encourage participation in the Council as well as participation in the local community associations.

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THE VANISHING RACE SCULPTURE WINS LOS ANGELES CONSERVANCY 2001 PRESERVATION AWARD

by Mary Rodriguez

On May 17th at the Regal Biltmore Hotel in downtown LA, Thomas Starr King Middle Schools' *The Vanishing Race* received the Los Angeles Conservancy Preservation Award for 2001. This beautiful and powerful 1936 WPA sculpture by Djey el Djey graces the school courtyard. Its was a gift to the boys and girls of America from President Franklin Delano Roosevelt under his Works Progress Administration program. The artist Djey el Djey was born in New York City. Half East Indian on his father's side, he sculpted many works around Los Angeles including Nicholas Copernicus on the *Astronomers Monument* on the front lawn of Griffith Park Observatory.

There were seven winners selected by the Conservancy Preservation Awards Jury for 2001. Other winners were the historic Allen House, First Methodist Episcopal Church, Bryson Apts. on Wilshire Blvd. featured in Raymond Chandler's *Lady in the Lake* mystery, the Chemosphere House built in 1960 at the top of a single concrete column in the Hollywood Hills, the residence of John Entenza who served for 37 years as editor and publisher of *Arts & Architecture* magazine, the Pantages Theater in Hollywood, and the USC Edward L. Doheny Memorial Library.

The ceremony was attended by Principal Thelma Yoshii & Assistant Principal Daniel Eckstrom. Board of Education Member Caprice Young's Deputies Monica Rodriguez and Carl Cade, and District E Asst. Superintendent Larry Tash. Representatives from several of the organizations that funded the restoration also attended including Ricardo Gomez, Pres. of Franklin Hills Residents Association, Michael Espinosa City of LA Neighborhood Matching Fund Grant, and from the Los Feliz Improvement Association, Terry Hughes, Charlotte De Armond, Mary Beth Sorenson, and of course me. I was also fortunate enough to have my family with me on this special day: my husband Van, my son Max, and my daughter Ruby currently in 7th grade at Thomas Starr King. My friend Sandra Gold of the Silver Lake Gardening Club so crucial to all of our beautification efforts attended, as well as, Mia Lehrer whose landscape architectural firm Mia Lehrer + Associates worked pro bono as our consultants for the entire courtyard redesign. Andrea Morse of the Sculpture Conservation Studio, the professional conservators hired to restore the statue, also attended as they had participated in several of the winning projects.

Every once in a while all the hours of time, energy, and thought devoted to a project that you really believe in pays off. For the last 5 years I have focused my attention on Thomas Starr King Middle School. It's been a passion that at times had me frustrated, but I believed that what I was doing was important and convinced a lot of people around me along the way. If

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Ms Rodriguez with the statue she worked so hard to save



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The Honorable John Ferraro, President of the Los Angeles City Council and our Councilman for the 4th District recently passed away after a long fight with cancer. He had served the City for 35 years as a Councilman and a Police Commissioner after a successful business career in insurance. Mr. Ferraro went to the University of Southern California where he was an All American tackle on the Trojan football team.

Councilman Ferraro served for many years as Council President where he maintained order with wit and charm. He was responsible for steering the ordinance providing for the extremely successful 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles. He also strongly supported the Los Angeles Zoo and was delighted to see the pleasure brought to young children by the Zoo animals. A strong supporter of public safety, Councilman Ferraro quietly arranged for the financing of new water mains and fire hydrants for Griffith Park to replace the leaky low pressure system that existed. Firefighters now have adequate sources of water to suppress brush fires in the park.

John Ferraro also supported our own Franklin Hills neighborhood. Ferraro convinced the Library Commission to site the Los Feliz Library on its current site at the south east corner of Franklin Avenue and Hillhurst. He also arranged to downgrade Franklin Avenue from secondary highway status to that of a local collector street. This allowed for a 25 MPH speed limit from Commonwealth easterly across the Shakespeare Bridge. Ferraro helped our neighborhood celebrate the re-opening of the Shakespeare Bridge after its closure for one year for seismic strengthening. He presented City Council scrolls to local neighbors who were active on the Bridge party committee of FHRA and thoroughly enjoyed the party himself.

For all of us who had the privilege to know him John Ferraro will be remembered as a giant of a man. His exploits as an All American football player at USC are dwarfed by his long and distinguished service to all the residents of our fair City.

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LIVING IN THESE HILLS

by Eric Frase

When a member of the FHRA board invited me to write an article for this issue of the Overview, he thought perhaps I'd like to write about my on-going efforts to keep Franklin Hills a graffiti-free neighborhood. However, I think everyone who reads this will agree on several basic concepts in the battle against graffiti. In an urban environment graffiti appears everywhere. Left untouched graffiti will attract additional tags to the same location. A location that has prompt removal of graffiti (say, within 24 hours) will soon no longer be of interest to taggers. After organizing several graffiti paint-outs in the past six months and working with other Franklin Hills residents in removing graffiti from the area, I think I've discovered why Franklin Hills is such a great place to live. We interact with one another. We walk in our neighborhood. We speak to our neighbors. We'll walk outside on a Saturday with a paintbrush and paint over graffiti. And to accomplish all this—we'll get out of our cars.

The day that I wrote this I read a letter in the Los Angeles Times from a West L.A. resident who lamented the fact that he continually sees "decent" neighborhoods in his area (my quotes) that are covered with graffiti — every mailbox, street sign, bus bench, pay phone, etc., and it is not removed for months. Didn't surprise me. I used to take Sunset Boulevard from Franklin Hills to and from my job in West L.A. Last fall I noticed tagging on a utility box between the street and the sidewalk just inside the city limits of Beverly Hills. Day after day, week after week, month after month I drove by, and it remained untouched because no one in Beverly Hills is going to walk around the corner with a can of spray paint and paint out graffiti near their home. Beverly Hills is pleasant, but in a sterile sort of way. I've got a feeling that the gardeners who work on "Any Street" know each other better than the residents who live on "Any Street". On the Westside the streets are jammed and the sidewalks are empty because people won't get out of their cars.

In recent years, Franklin Hills has been a neighbor to several areas that, according to the media, are becoming trendy. We keep seeing the words "Los Feliz" and "Madonna" in the same sentence. Nowadays, no writer can use

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the term Silver Lake without adding the word 'hipsters'. I've lived in Los Feliz since moving to Los Angeles in 1983. Since then, I've bounced around page 594 of the Thomas Guide, between B-2, B-3, and B-4 and have seen the business corridors on Vermont, Hillhurst, Hyperion and Sunset change dramatically. I'm not sure if the new businesses and restaurants are reflective of the residents here now, or if the new residents are a by-product of the changing storefronts. In either case, I hope we don't become a victim of our own success. I'm afraid that my efforts to keep my street clear of graffiti and trash will only encourage someone to move into the neighborhood who has no intention of speaking to the neighbors. Or someone who can't run an errand without climbing into an SUV the size of a conference room. Or someone who, despite being a person in perfect health on a sunny day can't go to a restaurant without valet parking. I fear that my new neighbors are going to be someone who won't get out of their cars.

Now that summer's just around the corner go outside and enjoy our neighborhood. Walk to the Los Feliz Village and Sunset Junction street fairs. Instead of driving to a gym walk the staircases in the hills. Try walking to Mayfair, Trader Joe's, Albertson's or Von's to get a bag of groceries. Walk to the video store. Or drive towards your favorite restaurant, park nearby and walk to dinner. Our streets are clean and safe because residents of Franklin Hills are willing to get out of their cars. If you're new to the neighborhood, welcome! When you see a neighbor outside cutting grass, picking up litter, painting out graffiti or just walking by, don't worry. We won't bite. I promise.

GRIFFITH OBSERVATORY EXPANSION

by Kara Knack

Griffith Observatory is currently in the final planning stages for its first and major renovation and expansion since opening to the public in 1935. Nearly two million people enter the doors each year. After 66 years of tremendous use the building is in great need of refurbishment. In 1935 the population of Los Angeles was only about 1.4 million people. The current population deserves to have a better look up into the tremendous advances in astronomy. The expansion will nearly double the Observatory's size and will greatly improve the visitor experience. Kara Knack serves as the Renovation Communications Officer for Friends Of The Observatory (FOTO) which is raising nearly half of the funds necessary for the construction. A public meeting will be held on Monday, June 18, 2001, 6:30 pm at Griffith Observatory.

(FHRA note: Ms. Knack will give a brief presentation on the closure of the Griffith Observatory at our annual meeting on Wednesday, June 13.)



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COMMUNITY GARDEN OPENS

by Norm Harriton

The Franklin Hills Community Garden, on the grounds of the Lycee International de Los Angeles, (LILA) is now in operation and planting has begun. It has been a slow and at times discouraging process obtaining the necessary governmental approvals and fundin, but after ten months our Community Garden has become a reality.

Back in July, 2000 Board Chairman, Adam Weisman first proposed the idea of a community garden to Elizabeth Chaponot, Principal of LILA. Mme. Chaponot was quite supportive, offering to provide water and the land if FHRA obtained funding and supervised the construction.

Next came the task of obtaining a soil test to determine if the soil was free of contaminants and obtaining approval from the City of Los Angeles, which owns the land occupied by LILA. The soil test was favorable, but initially the City was not, objecting to development of a community garden on their land. FHRA's persistence finally persuaded the City to grant official permission for the Garden in February, 2001.

Now, to get the project built we needed the kind of green that doesn't grow in a garden. FHRA offered a match of funds for the Garden obtained from other sources. John Aaroe Charitable Foundation became the first contributor (\$500) at the urging of Hattie Ramirez of the Los Feliz office of John Aaroe Realty. Alan Long and Robert Kalin of DBL



There were no golden shovels or flowery speeches at the Community Garden ground breaking. Garden Coordinator Norm Harriton gets right to work doing what gardeners do, as FHRA Chairman Adam Weisman behind him appears to do what chairmen do

Realtors each donated \$250 toward the Garden. FHRA matched the realtor contributions with \$1,000. On motion by Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky the County Board of Supervisors granted FHRA \$2,000 to help fund the Community Garden.

That provided enough funds to get started. To keep work going, during tougher than expected grading of the site by the Hollywood Beautification Team, Tony Fanara, owner of Palermo Italian Restaurant donated a mountain of pizzas to feed a very hungry 30 member crew. FHRA Board Member Charlie Mims, with surveying experience in the distant past, provided the expertise and labor to fix the corners of the Garden precisely per our paper layout and measurements. Bruce Carroll, FHRA Treasurer, made a photographic record of each stage in the development of the Garden.

The grading and clearing process generated 150 heavy sacks full of weeds and rocks, and a large pile of rock, concrete, lumber, pipe, and other debris which won't fit in sacks. Nearby residents Tad Brady and Greg Nelms, joined by FHRA

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leaders Adam Weisman, Ricardo Gomez and your Community Garden Coordinator then participated in what might be called cleanup aerobics, moving the weeds and debris from the Garden area to LILA's dumpster some 300 yards distant.

With the installation of irrigation pipes, plot dividers, hose racks, and a new entry gate in the fence along Sanborn the Garden was ready in late April. Please stroll by and watch our progress. The Garden is on the Sanborn avenue side of LILA (check the map on the back of the Overview). Most of the plots have been assigned, but a few are still available. If you are interested in applying for one of the remaining plots reserved for Franklin Hills residents, contact Norm Harriton at (323) 663-9695.



Penny Layne, hose in hand, became the first to start working on her garden just minutes after individual plots were selected at the end of April



In March, an army of yellow shirted Hollywood Beautification Team members were brought in to battle the weeds and break up the soil. They needed mechanical help to remove large chunks of concrete and level the garden area. They needed pizza help, donated by Palermo Restaurant, to keep working.

By mid May, Norm Harriton, after plenty of planning and preparing his plot, precisely places plants . . .the garden's first . . .corn and squash.



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FHRA TREASURER'S REPORT -2000

Bruce Carroll

Whether you counted it as the first year of the new millennium, or the last year of the old one, the year 2000 was a good one for the FHRA. We set a new record with 344 memberships, beating 1999 by 16 memberships and more than doubling 1998's total membership. In addition to their regular \$10 dues, many generous members also kicked in an extra \$20, or \$50, or more, totaling an additional \$1,068 in general contributions.

The new Community Garden got \$1,000 in seed money through the efforts of Hattie Ramirez of John Arroee Realty and the generosity of Alan Long and Robert Kalin of DBL Realtors. Movie companies filming in the area donated almost \$800 to FHRA thanks to the urging of resident Tad Brady. And \$225 was donated to support the ongoing Franklin Avenue median landscaping project, most of it from long-time benefactor Armida Bolton. But expenses for the median water, plants, and labor totaled over \$1,400.

On the sales side: Overview ad revenue of nearly \$3,200 helped defray about 60% of the publication costs. The sale of FHRA T-shirts and historic photos brought in over \$800. We also got nearly \$1,000 in cash from the merger deal that transformed the 25 shares of Media One stock donated in 1999 by Phil Lyons into 22 shares of AT&T. Unfortunately due to the decline in value of the AT&T stock we lost over \$500 in value from the beginning of the year.

For those who haven't been doing the math in their heads the total income received by FHRA in 2000 was \$11,508.89. Our expenses were \$10,301.85. The biggest expense was the \$5,274.29 cost of printing and preparing the Overview. The next largest chunk of money, almost \$2,000, went to charitable contributions. The bulk of that was given to projects at King Middle School where we helped fund restoration work on the historic Vanishing Breed sculpture as well a tree planting and mural projects. Next in the spending line was the Franklin median where, as noted above, our expenses exceeded donations by \$1,219.23. The Community Garden spent \$419.70 for insurance, soil tests and postage in its start-up months. We also spent \$211.37 for supplies to remove graffiti.

On the administrative side, the FHRA message line phone cost \$245.92, postage just over \$167. Replenishing our stock of historic photos was \$235.65 and other miscellaneous costs, from copies to food for the annual meeting, came to \$320.66.

Crunching all the numbers together the FHRA's assets at the end of the year were \$696.56 more than when 2000 started...and that's our bottom line.



Karen Weiss

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MEDIAN ANNOUNCEMENT

by Shirley Mims

Median work can be a lot of fun, especially when you have someone to do it with. That's why I started contacting people to join me once a month for general maintenance on our Franklin Avenue median. Together we get things done like weeding and picking up trash. When you work on the median, you will see your contribution every time you pass by it. Also, the more we are out there the more we learn about California natives—did you notice the beautiful profuse blue blooms of the ceanothus in April? What about all those gorgeous poppies gracing the flats?

Working on the median is also a great place to get to know your neighbors and to share concerns. You can hang out and chat while doing something worthwhile for our community. Passersby often say hello and make positive comments about our progress, once in a while we get them to join us too!

You can be a part of this rewarding experience every third Saturday from 9 to 11 AM (rain and holidays move the date to the next, or fourth, Saturday). All you have to do is show up. You are always welcome to bring a friend, or two. We provide tools and gloves but if you want to bring your own that's OK too. Be sure to bring some water and protective wear like a hat, long sleeves and sunscreen. If you are interested in joining us please call our hotline at 323/664-7247 and leave your name and number for me to contact you. Forward your email address to us at fhra2000@hotmail.com to receive periodic updates on the median. I look forward to having you join us!

DONATIONS OF GARDEN TOOLS ARE NEEDED!!

If you have any spare hoes, rakes, shovels, picks, dust-pans, weeders, spades, etc., please call our hotline at 323/664-7247 and we will arrange to pick them up. The tools are used for community projects such as on the Franklin Avenue Median and stair cleanups.

EXCEPTIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE

Mark Bruna of Tree King generously donated his time, staff and equipment to trim the palm trees on our median in January (see photo). Living in the neighborhood Mark wanted to make a contribution to his community. We are very grateful for his services and community spirit. If you need expert tree care please call Tree King for a quote: 323/223-4680.

WELCOME BASKETS

by Shirley Mims

Welcome Baskets are being delivered to new residents in Franklin Hills. Please give us a hand to help welcome our new neighbors. If you have a new neighbor please call us with their name and address. A welcome basket will be cheerfully delivered to their doorstep.

These wonderful baskets are full of goodies from local businesses, the City of Los Angeles, and our organization, and are the result of the efforts of several generous volunteers. The baskets include special offers as well as lots of information about the area. If you are a business owner and want to contribute literature or coupons or other fun stuff, please call Violet Weber at 323/663-6427, Shirley Mims at 323/666-2520, or our hotline at (323) 664-7247,

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FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Six of the eleven seats on the Franklin Hills Residents Association Board of Directors are up for election at the annual meeting to be held at the ABC-TV Studios on Wednesday June 13, 2001. The election for Board of Directors is governed by the FHRA by-laws provision below:

Chris Boutelle (i)



FHRA Vice President and in charge of OVERVIEW advertising and distribution. On the FHRA board since 1991. Active in disaster preparedness and always on the lookout for graffiti to paint-out. Member of the Welcome Basket Committee. Twenty year Franklin Hills homeowner and 25 year motion picture and TV industry veteran.

Bruce Carroll (i)



Bruce Carroll moved to the Franklin Hills 31 years ago so he could tumble out of bed and quickly get to work at the bottom of the hill as a news producer for the ABC-TV network. He's been an FHRA member since its inception in 1989 and a board member and treasurer for the last ten years.

Bruce is also a frequent contributor to the Overview with both words and pictures. He started the FHRA telephone message line 323-664-7247 and is the minder of FHRA2000@hotmail.com, our main email address.

But what he loves most is being curator of the FHRA collection of historic photos. Some date back more than 80 years to show the barren treeless landscape on which we have all, in some part, crafted today's friendly Franklin Hills.

Joseph Hahn



Attorney and resident of the area since 1999 particularly concerned about ways to mitigate traffic on Hyperion and Fountain and rid the area of auto body shops. Would like to see FHRA work to attract businesses that are more compatible with the residential nature of the neighborhood.

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2001 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

(Article 8, section 4) Elections to the Board of Directors shall be by secret ballot. No member shall be allowed to cast more than one vote for any candidate. The candidates receiving the most votes shall become the new board members at the conclusion of the meeting at which the election is held. Absentee voting shall be permitted to any Individual Member."

Norman Harriton



Coordinator and driving force behind the creation of the FHRA Community Garden—getting City approval, soil tests, raising \$4,000, and overseeing contractors. Franklin Hills resident for over 40 years. Children attended Franklin Elementary, King Jr. Hi and Marshall. FHRA member since 1990.

Shirley Mims (i)



Chairs the Median committee, developing a base of volunteers to help with its general upkeep, and also co-chairs the Welcome Basket committee to introduce new neighbors to our neighborhood and its resources.

Helps wherever needed on such projects as graffiti paint-outs and stair cleanups.

Richard Shaffran



"Ric has lived in Franklin Hills for 8 years, most recently with his dog Norton with whom he enjoys exploring the neighborhood. Ric has an educational and professional background in nonprofit organizations and as a lawyer and educational administrator and looks forward to bringing his experience to helping the work of FHRA. He has been a member since 1993 and believes that FHRA will be even more important to helping the community to maintain its character and improving life for residents in the coming years in many different ways."

Carol Skinner (i)



Carol moved to Franklin Hills in 1968 and has never considered moving. She is retired from teaching vocal music in the L.A. School District. She joined FHRA in 1992; and soon after became Membership Chair (with the database on a Mac ii.) Her current interests in FHRA are: Editing and layout for Overview, representing FHRA as a voting member of C-PAB and The Hillside Federation; Los Feliz Library, Community Crimewatch and King Middle School

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TOPS IN TREES

Photos and story by Bruce Carroll

Mark Bruna of Tree King (left and below, with two of his patients) generously donated his time, staff and equipment to trim the palm trees on our Franklin Avenue Median.



Living in the neighborhood, Mark wanted to make a contribution to his community. We are very grateful for his services and community spirit. Of course, Mark and Tree King [(323) 223-4680] work on shorter trees as well as taller trees, and just last month removed a dead tree that marred the median landscape.

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NORTHEAST DIVISION, LAPD

Information provided by the Community Relations Office of Northeast Area

Northeast Area continues to make strides in its commitment to the community police problem solving partnership.

Northeast area has been recognized by the Los Angeles Police Department for its innovative programs in obtaining the goal of institutionalizing community policing. The Problem Solving Detail has handled over 125 investigations involving issues of quality of life, fear of crime, and public disorder since its inception a little over a year ago. Officer Sandra Escalante is assigned to the unit and will assist community members in initiating a Problem Solving Request. Officer Escalante is also responsible for coordinating Neighborhood Watch meetings. If you desire an officer to speak at your function or need to initiate a "PSR", please contact her at 213-847-3136. For meetings we ask that you give us a minimum of two weeks to set up the meeting.

As you all know the senior lead officers have been given more opportunities to work on the problems that plague your communities. The SLOs still will be assigned to patrol functions at least once a week. They will be available to attend your meetings and will continue to provide direction to the other officers assigned to the basic cars.

The Northeast Explorer program is proud to announce that one of their own was selected to attend the prestigious FBI Leadership Academy in Quantico, Virginia this summer. Explorer Sergeant Luis Coronel competed amongst thousands of explorers nationwide for the opportunity to attend this worthwhile and rewarding learning experience. Only thirty explorers were selected for this event. We are very proud of Luis as he is the only Los Angeles Police Explorer to be selected.

Northeast is looking forward to its next crime prevention fair/open house. The date has been set for October 20, 2001. Last year's fair was outstanding. We look forward to an even more exciting event this year. Please put that date on your calendars.

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A PLETHORA OF AVIS

by Bob Page

Spring is raising its randy head as evidenced by a cacophony of avian lust. The mocking birds are at full throat...just about each and every hour of the day and night. I'm not sure how they make such noisy announcements in rural areas, but I swear at night the dang things think that street lights are the sun! Unfortunately, as I have written before, one returning vocalist perches right outside our front door. Carol Skinner, residing across from us, fantasizes about procuring an uzi...I'm certain.

Ah, but this is but step #1 in the saga. Step #2 occurs when courting turns to nesting...and anything that moves gets dive-bombed. The cat population gets the brunt of the incessant onslaught, but we human kinds are certainly not safe. Too many times I feel as if I need to wear a pith helmet when I work in the yard.

Step #3 is "retribution" time...when the targets of the winged raids (the cats) manage to reduce the newly increased mocker population ... chick by chick. Even Ma Nature must get tired of wearing ear plugs... Goodness knows the overall population of the birds doesn't seem to diminish.

And then there's the case of the returning ubiquitous peanut. You know, the one that manages to find its way into your hanging plants or into a planter. Once again I give full credit to the resident scrub jays for that, and I am in awe that the entire hillside isn't one huge goober forest.

Hummingbirds, the whirlybirds of our world, are racing in at Mach 5, presenting a virtual blur of kaleidoscopic color as they flit from flower to flower. One feathery jewel perches occasionally on a wire that stretches beneath the roof of our deck...no more than four feet away from where I sit. Though I remain still, I must assume that the little guy/gal knows I'm there because I talk to it...even when I'm wearing my glasses...

The seeming-never-to-end concerted concert of construction on Hollyvista has mercifully given way to the A flat scating of the mating mockers. By the time the birds find love at first beak and produce offspring, there should be a new neighbor taking possession of the completing home next door...the most recent home procurer in a growing list just along Hollyvista. Acting as a spokesman, if I may, for the street, I'd like to welcome our several new friends/neighbors and urge them to join us at the next residents' association meeting.

For those new to this area, I'd like them from time to time to stand quietly outside their homes during this and every Spring...stand and watch and listen for the swoop and piercing sound of soaring raptors. Yes, in the city, over our heads, are "our" often visiting pair of red-tail hawks, gliding just over rooftops with their silent four foot wing span. And, when you hear that sharp cry, look way up in the sky. It's a sound and sight that makes your heart soar as well. If it doesn't...call 911.

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**COOPERATING WITH
OTHER COMMUNITIES**

by Carol Skinner

Twice a year my life is taken over by the Overview, but all year round I attend meetings—not just with our own board but with reps from other communities on behalf of FHRA.

C-PAB: The Community-Police Advisory Board is intended to include every community in Northeast Division. That stretches from East Hollywood—just to the west of us—and Griffith Park out to Eagle Rock and Highland Park. The function of the CPAB is to serve as a liaison between the community and the police, ideally there is a member from each of these communities. At the monthly meetings the Commanding Officer usually presents most of the agenda, with information including crime statistics both in the whole area and by communities. Our most common crime in Franklin Hills is BTFV (Burglary Theft from Vehicle) followed by GTA (Grand Theft Auto) and much more rarely crimes against persons. (The message here is: don't leave your keys in the car, don't leave valuables visible on the car seats, do lock the car, do give some thought to where you're parking.) We also have an opportunity to meet the Senior Lead Officers as well as specialists such as Traffic and Juvenile. A current project of LAPD citywide is to establish **Safe Houses**, where a child on the way to or from school can get away from perceived danger, call home, use the bathroom or maybe just rest. Persons volunteering to be a safe house are of course investigated so that parents will know that their children are being entrusted to safe company. Anyone in the neighborhood who is willing to serve as a safe house—please let me know and I'll get you an application.

THE FEDERATION of HILLSIDE AND CANYON ASSOCIATIONS is a congress of residents' associations which are located on—you guessed it—hillsides. The membership of this group includes associations from Pacific Palisades to Bel Air to Cahuenga Pass, Sherman Oaks Hollywood, Los Feliz, ourselves, Echo Park, Mt. Washington, and many others. There are issues that concern people who live on steep ground that are not of immediate interest to flat landers as well as concerns that affect everyone. Recent discussions have included the safety of water supply (toilet to tap; Chromium 6) and power shortages, cellular facilities and such which provide a service and also clutter up a neighborhood, billboards, paving, Mulholland paving, and Neighborhood Councils, to name only a few. The idea is that when the voting members of the Federation decide to take a stand on an issue then all of the associations will stand behind that position.

C-PAB meets the last Monday of each month, and the Federation meets the first Wednesday. If anyone would like to learn more about either or both I can give you information (printouts, discs etc.) and/or take you to a meeting as my guest. (323) 662-1775 or CarolCantata@aol.com

continued from page 3

CONCLUSION

The present neighborhood council model that is emerging in Los Angeles is dubbed the "one hundred candles" model by the League of Women Voters study of neighborhood councils. Under this model hundreds of neighborhood councils will emerge. With respect to this kind of neighborhood council, the study noted "The political clout of the neighborhood councils will depend on their individual strengths, which probably means the larger ones will be more effective and the smaller ones less so." We are hoping that our federation approach will bring us the best of both worlds. The burden of running a neighborhood council will be spread over four communities thereby giving us economies of scale, greater political clout, and increased cooperation between our communities on those issues that affect all of us. Yet, because we will maintain and encourage the growth of existing residence and business associations, local issues will be handled by these groups as they always have. The enhancement will be that each of these groups and their communities will be backed up with the resources of the Greater Griffith Park Council.

If you have any interest in participating in the formation of the Council, please email or phone FHRA and we will put you to work. You do not have to belong to the FHRA to participate. The Council is still in its formative stage and we really need interested people to participate.

continued from page 3

STATUE

you haven't noticed lately things are changing at Thomas Starr King. Everything is looking brighter and cheerier and its rubbing off on the students, teachers, administration, new parents applying for the new Magnet School, and even the community that lives nearby and drives passed the school everyday. Everyone is noticing.

I believe that the restoration of this important community landmark the graceful and majestic statue, *The Vanishing Race*, neglected for so many years, has restored dignity to Thomas Starr King Middle School and to the community that surrounds it. To me it stands for the spirit of the school and it gives hope to the neighborhoods that it serves.



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TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS OF FHRA COMMITTEES

by Adam M. Weisman, chairman

In a dozen years that the Franklin Hills Residents' Association has been in existence, board meetings and annual events have typically ended up with the formation of a few new committees. Some committees have been essential to the operation of FHRA, e.g. Membership, Crime Watch, City Planning and Zoning), while others have emerged and disappeared within months (e.g. neighborhood signs.) The purpose of most committees has been to complete a small project or maintain the beauty of our great neighborhood. Most committees have consisted of as little as one mem-

ber with a mission. The board of directors would approve the project trials and provide financial support where needed. Usually at least one board member would chair or provide consultation to the committee and communicate with other board members as the project progressed. In the end, FHRA committees have been very organic: growing, dividing and shriveling up over the course of time. In fact, it is not unusual for a member to ask about committee participation only to learn that the committee has not met for many years. This is the magical moment when that person asking about the committee is appointed "Grand exalted poo bah" or simply the chair person.

When you peruse through The Overview; under the masthead is a list of "Action Team Leaders." These individuals are board members to contact when you have concerns about your neighborhood. Committee chairs have

not been listed as clearly but may be inferred based upon the articles.

The following list may be considered (as of today) the current operating committees and designated (crowned) chair persons:

Crime watch: including a Community Police Advisory Board (CPAB), link each to neighborhood watch groups (Bates, Cumberland, Franklin Hills,) communication with Northeast senior lead officers and urgent matters affecting the comfort and safety of our neighborhood (e.g., is noise a criminal act?): Carol Skinner, (323) 6621775.

City Services: Water, Sewers, Garbage, Pavement, Curbs Painting, Street cleaning, Lights, Permits, Shakespeare Bridge, and the political savvy to connect you to the person who will solve the problem or have the answer: Charley Mims: (323) 666-2520.

Franklin Hills Median: there is still much work to be done and we need Friends (and lovers) of the median to do it! This includes weeding, planting, garbage pickup, and cultivating green thumbs: Shirley Mims, (323)-666-2520.

History: everything about our neighborhood is worth saving or at least picturing. This includes photographs, stories, mementos, *objets d'art*: Bruce Carroll

Stairways: Did you know there are 14 public stairways on our hill? Did you know the city does not take care of them? Did you know the Sierra Club has a trail the will take you along them all? This committee takes a day to clean up a few times per year, and helps promote exercise and a pedestrian lifestyle: Adam Weisman 323-666-4630.

Community Garden: with the ground broken, water flowing, seeds planted, and sun shining (no committee chair required for this!!) there are 16 plots for our residents to grow crops and flowers. The gar-



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den is located on the grounds of Lycee International de Los Angeles (LILA): Norm (the farmer) Harriton (323) 663-9695.

Trees: We need more of them and need to keep the ones we have alive. Current project: some are planned around Thomas Starr King Middle School and Myra Avenue: Peter Bedard

Graffiti: This standing Committee is often running around cleaning and painting out the tagging marks that mar our neighborhood. Clare O'Callahan (323-660-9479) and Eric Frase (323) 6648765) have a lot of paint and brushes and often arrange paint-out days to get the job done.

The Overview: there is an editor (Carol Skinner) and distributor (Chris Boutelle, (323)-666-5543 who publish and deliver this newsletter twice a year. There is always a need for a timely, informative articles, advertising, and folks who love walking around the neighborhood to pass out the Overview. (Email to: OverviewEditor@aol.com; or mail to P.O.Box 29122, Los Angeles 90029.)

Metropolitan Transit Authority: if it's not planes, trains, and automobiles, it must be sidewalks, DASH buses and the red line subway. Marcelle Zonta"

Welcome Basket for new residents: Shirley Mims

There are other committees that are active and inactive as the need arises. Some committees are new ones that are staffed by only one member:

Neighborhood Council: Ricardo Gomez

Los Feliz Public Library: Carol Skinner and Charley Mims

Thomas Starr King Middle School: Ricardo Gomez and Carol Skinner

Lycee International de Los Angeles (LILA): Adam Weisman

Membership: This is a committee that springs up often in the spring, but needs to be tended to all year. It also needs a new chair this year.

Disaster Preparation: Are you ready for the "Big One?" Did you know there are safe places to go in the neighborhood (e.g. ABC, LILA?) We are in need of well-trained disaster prep folk.: Chris Boutelle.

Hillside Federation liason: Carol Skinner

This list of committees is not exhaustive. New ideas (cable-TV digitizing, underground utility lines, Christmas lighting on the bridge (I've got the lights!) Hyperion Avenue, air pollution) are all presented at board meetings or left on the FHRA hotline. What we need most of all

is folks to chair the committees or projects. You need not be a board member to chair a committee. Many of these standing committees need a transfusion of new blood to keep the ideas fresh and dynamic. Franklin Hills residents Association will never runs smoothly with 325 members but with only a few dozen workers. As a volunteer organization, we need volunteers! Please do not duck and cover. Raise your hand and speak up! Just pick one committee to serve on, and we can really get things done.

- Answers to bridge quiz:
1. There are no lights
 2. The sidewalk was moved from the north side (right in the photo) to the south side.
 3. Dirt areas around the turrets were cemented over.
 4. What else do you see?

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LOS FELIZ BRANCH

Always adding new services to the Los Feliz community, the library now has Books on CD. These new books are shelved along with Books on Tape in the Audio Books section at the front of the library. These CD books are part of a generous donation from the Literature & Fiction Department at Central Library. We are testing to see if our community will use these materials before we spend our regular budget on them. Please let us know if you like this new service by borrowing these books.

The annual Children's Summer Reading Program is called *Wild About Reading: Summer Safari*. Beginning mid-July, with special programs every other week through the end of August, children can earn a free Los Angeles Zoo pass and other incentives. Dinosaurs, cabarets, storytellers, King Arthur, Bubble-mania and other programs will be coming to encourage visiting the library. Children and parents can sign up at the reference desk.

The Teen Reading Program, *Reading Scores!* includes programs, teen council meetings and give-aways for reading, reading, reading. Stop by and ask Young Adult Librarian Willow Nardoni-Teays about the details. Willow is also working with students from the Thomas Starr King Middle School LACER program. This after school enrichment opportunity is a cooperative effort between LAUSD and the library.

For adults we continue to offer regular computer classes. Adult Librarians, George Jamgochian and Catherine

O'Connor, will cover various Internet and Electronic Database Resources. Classes are limited to 6 participants at a time to allow for direct hands-on learning. Reservations can be made at the information desk.

Special programs of adult interest coming this summer include an Adult Yoga workshop on Saturday June 16th at 12:00 noon, Gar Anthony Haywood on Tuesday June 12th at 6:00pm, Frances Noble on July 17th at 6:00pm, the return of the fabulous Los Feliz Woodwind Ensemble on Saturday August 14th at 11:00am, and Steve Scott on August 14th at 6:00 pm.

The monthly Book Discussion Group continues to meet on the first Saturday of each month, and the books are available in advance. For information about these adult programs call the library at (323) 913-4710.

In addition, the Los Feliz Library League will continue the League lecture series on July 19th. Contact the League through the offices of Elisabeth Klock and Associated Realtors at (323) 644-9449. The League recently purchased a large number of excellent architecture books for the library's regular and *Los Feliz in Literature* collections.

If you would like to receive notification about upcoming adult programs, join our email list by sending us a message to: lfeliz@lapl.org and ask to be added.

The library will be closed on Wednesday July 4th for Independence Day.

-Pearl Yonezawa, Senior Librarian



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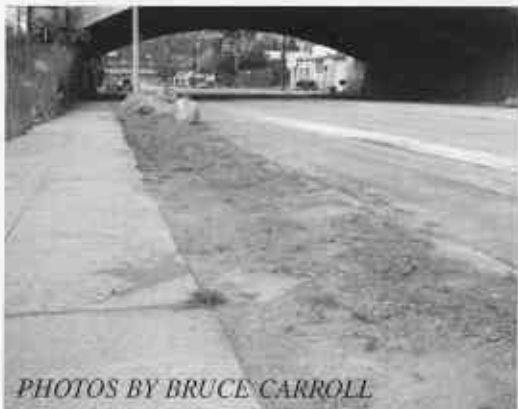
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CLEANING ALONG THE MYRA CORRIDOR

By Bruce Carroll

"It's a bad environment," explained FHRA Board member Peter Bedard as he led a cleanup brigade along Myra Avenue just south of King Middle School. "Having children



PHOTOS BY BRUCE CARROLL

BEFORE West side of Myra Ave. looking north beyond the mattress in the street toward King Middle School 10am

walking around crackheads lounging on discarded mattresses and couches thrown beneath the bridge (where Sunset crosses over Myra) doesn't help the school, and it doesn't help the neighbor-

hood." What is helping the neighborhood are efforts to spruce-up the stretch of Myra between Fountain Ave. and Santa Monica Blvd.

Last spring more than a dozen street trees were planted. This spring about a dozen volunteers from the FHRA joined by members of the LA Conservation Corps' "Clean & Green" team and the Hollywood



Cleanup chairman Peter Bedard points out problem areas to HBT supervisor while FHRA president Ricardo Gomez pulls weeds in the background.

Beautification Team applied their spring cleaning skills to the mess along Myra. And recently the city approved the planting of another 50 trees along the street. The project is another legacy of our late Councilman John Ferraro. Although the stretch of Myra, which is the southern gateway

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CLEANING MYRA *continued from page 23*

to the Franklin Hills, was just outside 4th district boundaries, his deputy Lupe Franco worked hard to help the FHRA get the necessary city resources and permits.

Another of the project's big supporters is Avaya Communications Inc. Bedard says Pam Anderson, manager of Avaya's Myra Ave. facility, is "really excited about getting the area cleaned up." Avaya's parking lot was the assembly point for the cleanup crews whose hard work was much appreciated. One of the more senior volunteers was FHRA member Robert White who lives on Franklin, but for him keeping the neighborhood clean is an everyday event.



Cleanup veterans: Elaine Ewing is holding the bag while Robert White wields a weed whacking hoe.

He explained that whenever he's out walking and sees trash, he picks it up and tosses it out. But the Myra cleanup took White on a sort of sentimental journey. His memory of the street goes back to his days as a student at King Jr. High, starting in 1941, and in his view "the neighborhood doesn't look a lot different than 60 years ago." Maybe now, with 60 bags—if not 60 years—of debris removed, and



60+ new trees, things will start looking better.

LA Conservation Corps workers and FHRA president Ricardo Gomez (center) pull up weeds and debris around one of the street trees planted in spring of 2000.



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