



OVERVIEW

FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

ISSUE # 30

Fall/Winter 2005



Median before asphalt was removed

Ten Years Old and Still Growing

By Bruce Carroll

There were parades and celebrations around the country on the 10th birthday of the FHRA's landscaping of the Franklin Avenue Median. Of course most people thought of it as Veterans Day--not Median Day.

It was November 11, 1995, when a group of about 30 volunteers possessing green, or semi-green thumbs, dug and scraped through the hard soil under what had previously been a graffiti scarred asphalt median to plant what has grown into a neighborhood asset. It took more green than just thumbs to complete the long dreamed of project. FHRA spent \$13,763.44 for

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The median today--ten years later

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President's Message:

by Charley Mims

From the entire Board of the Franklin Hills Residents Association: we hope you have a peaceful and happy holiday season and a wonderful 2006!

This year your association has continued our efforts to help calm traffic on our local streets including Franklin Avenue. Shirley Mims has worked to change the designation of Franklin Avenue from being a secondary highway to a local collector street. Downgrading Franklin Avenue will assure that the Shakespeare Bridge will not be torn down and widened to the four lanes of a secondary highway. It will also open up other possibilities for traffic calming.

We plan on putting up the holiday lights on the turrets of the Shakespeare Bridge again this year. The median island on Franklin Avenue continues to look great. Our median committee, with help from our monthly paid gardener, continues to maintain this median island and keep the plants trimmed.

Eric Frase, who chairs our graffiti abatement committee, is working on a package of information to deliver to new residents on local services, attractions, and interests, accompanied by our own Franklin Hills Residents Association greeting card to welcome newcomers to our hills.

If you have any suggestions for neighborhood improvements, please call our FHRA Hotline ((323)908-6078) or email us (FHRA@FranklinHills.org.)

Bruce Carroll and Charley Mims (me) continue to serve as representatives on the Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council (GGPNC) from District E. which roughly comprises the greater Franklin Hills area. The GGPNC is our officially recognized neighborhood council responsible for communicating between our local community and the elected officials and department heads of city government in the City of Los Angeles. While we have an advisory role in city government, it is a powerful voice when they know we speak for most of our stakeholders. If you want to become involved in neighborhood council affairs, please contact either Charley or Bruce.

The GGPNC is the official grassroots organization set up in our new City Charter to keep communication flowing between our local communities and the elected officials and departments of the City of Los Angeles. Please support your local neighborhood council the GGPNC.

Once again, best wishes for a joyous and healthy holiday season and a very happy new year!



FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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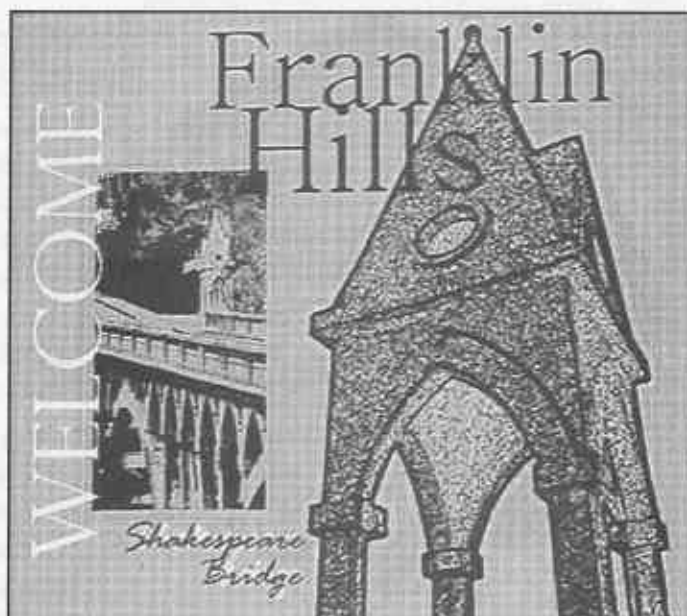
FHRA Back to Welcoming New Residents

by Eric Frase

FHRA's retired Welcome Basket program is about to return in a different format which, while much simpler is still a gesture of community and inclusion that is rare in Los Angeles. Replacing the former (and labor-intensive) gift baskets filled with product samples, brochures and menus supplied by local businesses, fellow board member Anne-Marie Ripley and I are putting together a simple mailing that would include a specially-designed greeting card featuring the Shakespeare Bridge and a welcome message from the FHRA Board of Directors. Also included in the packet would be a copy of the latest **OVERVIEW**, a wonderful (and detailed) fold out map of the shopping districts of Los Feliz, Silver Lake and Echo Park, and a map of the streets – and all (14) public stairways - found within the boundaries of Franklin Hills. Several other brochures about the history of the Franklin Hills area and the various contact numbers for city services and departments round out our introduction to new residents, be they homeowner or renter.

FHRA could use the assistance of additional volunteers to mail out packets on an on-going but occasional basis. Or if you have a new neighbor and would like to take one of our Welcome packs with you, contact us and we'll be glad to get one to you if the neighbor has not already received one. This personal outreach to new arrivals is the type of unexpected pleasantry that makes Franklin Hills such a wonderful place to call home.

To make a one-time Welcome delivery to a neighbor or to assist on an on-going basis, contact us at
FHRA@franklinhills.org or call 323-908-6078.



Franklin Avenue Update

Shirley Mims, Mary Shaw, Alexandra Weiss

Recently, the Franklin Avenue Traffic Committee made a formal request to the City's Planning Department to downgrade the portion of Franklin Avenue between Talmadge and St. George from a secondary highway to a local collector street. A secondary highway is four lanes wide, two in each direction, and provides for a central left turn lane. You might expect this classification for the part of Franklin that is near Western Avenue, but not in the residential portion of Franklin Hills, and certainly not on the Shakespeare Bridge which we don't ever see being widened to four lanes!

Formal motions were adopted by both the Franklin Hills Residents Association and the Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council to support the downgrade. Our request is being added to the Hollywood Community Plan that is being compiled by Mary Richardson of the City Planning Department. Councilman Tom LaBonge said recently that he would support the downgrade when it is presented to council. Several years ago, Councilman John Ferraro was working with FHRA to downgrade Franklin from St. George to Commonwealth. The process was never finished before he got ill and passed away. While it makes sense to extend the downgrade to Commonwealth (and probably even further west,) our current committee is pursuing only the portion that is within the Franklin Hills boundaries.

Several accidents have happened near Franklin and Holly Knoll that involved a driver of one car who crashed into several parked cars. Each event left several of our neighbors coming out to drive their cars only to find them TOTALLED. That's what got our committee started. Since forming two years ago, we have worked with the Department of Transportation (DOT) to do traffic studies, paint line striping down each side of the street, and install a "dip" sign on the east bound side of Franklin Ave. The Los Angeles City Engineering Department suggested that drivers might be hitting the curb at the nose of the median causing them to lose control and crash into the parked cars adjacent to the median. Both the LAPD and our council office have also worked with us to study and control traffic and help to slow it down.

We have heard of no new serious accidents in the last year since the striping was painted by DOT. However, there still have been a number of minor accidents, including a light pole being knocked over on the median island. This tells us that we still need to keep working on traffic calming measures to help prevent even more accidents. If you would like to help us, please contact our committee in care of FHRA@FranklinHills.org

Median

continued from page 1

irrigation, plants and rock work. Most of that donated by over 100 FHRA members and supporters, especially Armida Bolton whose generosity is commemorated by a median plaque in memory of her late husband Donald Bolton.

Our late City Councilmember John Ferraro in thanking the FHRA for the project declared, "You've taken an interest in your community and neighborhood and made it a better community, a better neighborhood, because of your interest." He presented certificates of appreciation to Project Manager, Ricardo Accorsi; Landscape Designer, Melinda Taylor; FHRA founder, Don Waldrop; and current FHRA president, Charley Mims.

Among those who got their hands dirty by planting ten years ago was our current Councilmember Tom LaBonge. After planting a sage with his young daughter he commented that, "The 3.6 million people of Los Angeles, when they come east on Franklin Avenue across that great bridge, will be more inspired because of the efforts put on today by the Conservation Corps and the Franklin Hills Residents Association."

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The morals of the median story are:

⇒ That working together we can accomplish difficult tasks that improve our community and the city.

⇒ That it takes a lot of generosity over the years FHRA has spent almost \$12,000 more on maintaining the landscaping than we have received in median specific donations.

⇒ And looking at the increasing traffic, perhaps Tom LaBonge shouldn't have invited all 3.6 million Angelenos to drive east on Franklin Ave. and be inspired.



Volunteers dig in on planting day November 11, 1995

Letters to the Editor

DEAR FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS,

I HAVE BEEN A RESIDENT OF FRANKLIN HILLS ON RONDA VISTA DRIVE SINCE 1973.

IN THAT TIME WE HAVE BEEN VERY LUCKY NOT TO HAVE HAD ANY MAJOR ACCIDENTS ON OUR STREET. HOWEVER, IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS WE HAVE OBSERVED A NUMBER OF CARS ON RONDA VISTA (AND I AM SURE ON THE OTHER STREETS ON THE HILL) DRIVING UP AND DOWN THE HILLS AT UNSAFE SPEEDS.

MANY OF THE CARS ARE FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD AS WE SEE THEM OFTEN. OTHERS ARE TRUCKS BELONGING TO WORKMEN WORKING ON YOUR HOMES.

PLEASE ASK THEM TO OBEY THE SPEED LIMIT AND TO BE CAREFUL. AFTER ALL THEY ARE GUESTS IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD. OUR STREETS ARE NARROW, WITH MANY BLIND CURVES. IF YOU LIVE AT THE TOP OF THE HILL, PLEASE THINK OF YOUR NEIGHBORS CLOSER TO THE BOTTOM. WE KNOW YOU WANT TO SHOW OFF HOW FAST THAT NEW, HOT CAR OR TRUCK CAN MAKE IT UP AND DOWN THE HILL, BUT

PLEASE, NOT AT THE EXPENSE OF HITTING SOME OF US WHO STILL ENJOY WALKING.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION,
LET'S ALL HAVE A SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON

HANK KOSTER

The following is not a letter to the Ed., but rather an E-mail conversation among a group of friends from various parts of the neighborhood. We hope that others will share critter sightings with us.

My husband and I live on Mayview Drive and were visited by a great horned owl last night around 10:30pm. We have seen and heard him once before, just about a year ago, but this time he sat on his tall telephone pole, hooted for about 15 minutes, and then a gigantic female came swooping in and they chatted for about 20 minutes before taking off.

Just thought that some of the local wildlife aficionados in the neighborhood might be interested in this.

Ann and David

We also saw an owl sitting on a huge pine tree just two houses down from us on Franklin, he also hooted for about 15 minutes and then swooped off. We were very glad our cats were inside! I didn't know the exact kind, but he was unmistakably an owl.

Anne

There has been an owl that has lived and hooted on Cumberland Avenue, in the 3900 block since the 1980s, at least. Many times I have seen its blunt-nosed silhouette as it swooped through the moonlit night sky looking for rodents in the open field below. That deep, musical "hoot-hoo" is a lovely, mournful sound, not unlike the far off whistles of the trains running late at night through Atwater. I am happy to hear that the owl (or perhaps one of its offspring) is still in the Cumberland, Clayton, Mayview area.

Chris

Back in the 70's there was a great horned owl living between Hollyvista and Franklin in a then-vacant lot three houses north of Prospect Walk, his/their home was a very tall fir tree. We did enjoy hearing him-or her-and catching an occasional glimpse of that distinctive head or the amazing wing spread. When the lot was sold the tree came down and the owl never returned. Once in a great while on a still evening I can hear that deep hoot-hoot, and I'm glad to learn where the family has settled.

Carol

Since these notes were exchanged we have heard that owls mate for life, and live a very long life. We can look forward to hearing our own owl in the future.

Griffith Park Master Plan Stirs Controversy

by George Grace,
email gmrnet1@gmrnet.com

The feud between the equestrians and mountain bikers that highlighted the March 30th Griffith Park Master Plan presentation at Friendship Auditorium quickly took a back seat to stronger criticism once the Plan was scrutinized. Both Griffith Park stakeholders and users quickly decided that there was too much emphasis on development, unnecessary change, and "branding" the Park as a Disney-like destination. Confusingly, the Plan makes recommendations in one section, and contradicts them with different recommendations in another. In Section 4, "Natural Environment", the Toyon Canyon Landfill should be restored as "mixed chaparral, oak woodland and oak-walnut woodland". Contradicted in Section 6, "Built Environment", which recommends "development of sports fields for softball, hardball, and soccer." It was obvious that the new 25 Year Griffith Park Master Plan needed a rewrite.

A petition recommending that the Master Plan "establish an Urban Wilderness in Griffith Park protecting and maintaining open spaces" is being circulated by a variety of Park stakeholders and neighborhood organizations. To date, over 4,000 petitions have been collected and forwarded to Recreation and Parks. This concept was also adopted by our City Councilman, Tom LaBonge.

Recognizing that the "Draft" Master Plan required extensive revisions, Councilman LaBonge, and the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks appointed a "Griffith Park Master Plan Working Group" to oversee rewriting the Master Plan. I was appointed to be the FHRA representative, joining stakeholders from the Sierra Club, Los Feliz Improvement Association, the Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council, the Griffith Family Trust, Equestrians, Golfers, and other interested groups. Meetings are held on the first Monday of each month at Park Ranger Station on Crystal Springs Road, and are open to everyone. Public comments are encouraged at the end of each meeting. More details about the Master Plan with links to the petition, agendas and minutes of the Working Group meetings, the "Draft" 2005 Master Plan, the 1978 Griffith Park Master Plan, and other related information is on the internet at:

<http://www.gmrnet.com/MasterPlan.html>

Some Master Plan recommendations have been universally applauded. Enhancing wildlife corridors and acquiring the 138 acre Cahuenga Peak property adjacent to the Hollywood sign providing a wildlife corridor into the Santa Monica Mountains are important features of the Natural Environment Section. Councilman LaBonge, has made this acquisition a top priority, and spearheaded a City application to the State of California for funds on September 30th. This wildlife corridor is a perfect site for our FHRA wildlife drinker/camera installation. Monitoring this portal into Griffith Park will provide unique wildlife information that has never before been collected. (You can still make a tax-deductible contribution to this FHRA project by sending your check to FHRA, and writing "Wildlife Drinker Fund" in the check memo section.)

In mid-October, I met with Chief Park Ranger Albert Torres and talked about the Wildlife Drinker Project. Chief Torres has one camera monitoring Park wildlife, and was favorable to the idea of adding a drinker/camera in the Cahuenga Peak, or some other wildlife corridor. He is also an avid photographer, and provided me with two recent pictures for this article.

One shows a couple of Canada Geese "hanging out" on Harding golf course. I'm not sure where the beautiful Western Bluebird photo was taken.

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Here is the latest on coyotes in the neighborhood. 16 coyote sightings have been posted on our Coyote Sighting survey since June - none threatening. Maybe we can all live in harmony with each other after all. I hope so! Post your coyote sighting at:

<http://www.gmrnet.com/Coyotea.html>

A LETTER FROM OUR COUNCILMEMBER, TOM LABONGE

Dear Resident:

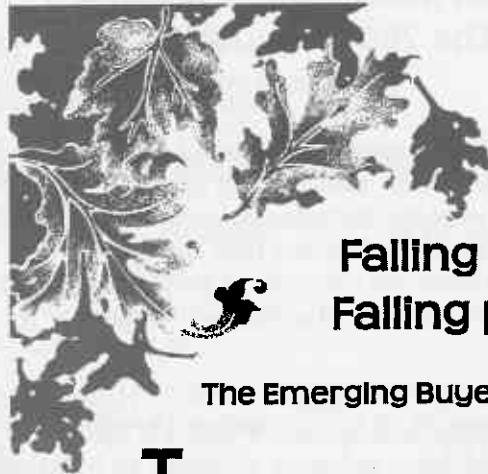
Thank you for your interest in the draft Griffith Park Master Plan. Like you, I love Griffith Park and my longtime priority is to see its beautiful open spaces preserved, its attractions enhanced and its boundaries expanded to the west with the acquisition of Cahuenga Peak.

The draft, which will be modified, has created a tremendous amount of public discussion. In order to provide a forum for individuals to provide input, I, along with Recreation and Parks Department General Manager Jon Kirk Mukri, have created a citizen advisory group called the Griffith Park Master Plan Working Group. The suggested changes put forward by this group, along with those submitted independently by others, will be forwarded to the Recreation and Parks Commission for consideration prior to its adoption of the document.

The following lists my position on a number of proposals put forward in the draft:

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Franklin Hills Overview: #30, Fall / Winter 2005



Falling leaves. Falling prices?

The Emerging Buyers' Market

The seasons have changed. It's no longer summer—and it's certainly no longer spring. Seasonal changes apply to this year's real estate market, too. The sizzling market of six months ago has cooled considerably. For sellers, this may be "last call" for some time for relatively high sales prices. For realtors, this market demands intensive, effective, consistent and expensive marketing; keen negotiating skills and creative problem solving. It is not a market for the neophyte or amateur. Everyone needs to keep wits—and pencils—sharpened.

Still, the last ten years have shown that, come January 2nd, the market revives. Buyers come back from their holidays and begin spending serious money again in the real estate market. Whether this precedent will hold sway in 2006 is anyone's guess. In the meantime, happy hunting in the remainder of the 2005 real estate market—and happy holidays!

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FHRA Marshalls Its Members At The 2005 Annual Meeting

by Bruce Carroll

The 17th annual spring meeting of the Franklin Hills Residents Association, as usual, got off to a delicious start with large trays of homemade cookies donated by FHRA member Vivian Shea. For the first time since 1991 the meeting was held on campus at John Marshall High School which next year Marshall will celebrate its 75th birthday.

On hand to welcome all the Franklin Hills neighbors was assistant principal Richard Tellez. He recounted how when first told he was being assigned to Marshall instead of the valley school he wanted, he agreed to stay just one year, that was in 1983." Once he got to Marshall he said he felt "very very fortunate" And noted "we get tons and tons of compliments about John Marshall High School and the Franklin Hills area."

Marshall is the second smallest LAUSD high school campus and according to Tellez "we're bulging at the seams." School board figures show an enrollment of over 4800 students. Tellez invited residents to call the school

if there are problems, such as graffiti, that the school might be helpful in solving.

Next on the program was the State of the Hill report by President Charley Mims. He urged residents who see a way to better the community to come to the FHRA with their ideas and energy as we've done in the past with the median landscape and stairway cleanups. He also urged all of us to slow down when driving because of the increased number of children in the neighborhood..

Keeping community concerns in the family, next up was traffic committee co-chair Shirley Mims who detailed efforts to get traffic to slow down and prevent serious accidents adjacent to Franklin Avenue median. Already, as a result of FHRA concerns, DOT has added new lines and signs to the area and since their installation there have been no major accidents. Ms. Mims explained that new traffic studies are being done in hopes the street can be downgraded from its current "secondary highway" status which might allow installation of speed bumps, but with the high volume of traffic that still might not be possible.

Councilmember Tom LaBonge made his always lively appearance asking the crowd to give themselves a big hand for being involved in their neighborhood. Responding to a continuing complaint in the Franklin Hills (the deterioration of our concrete streets) LaBonge says he's trying to find the money to put together a program to preserve those streets that are now over 80 years old. He also pushed for expansion of our rail transit system explaining that if all the buses that run along Wilshire Blvd. each day were parked end to end they would stretch from the ocean to Montebello. To relieve Griffith Park traffic and Observatory parking he proposed an aerial tramway to allow Observatory



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visitors to park near the Greek Theatre and glide their way up the hill.

Former FHRA Board member Peter Bedard reported on the progress of his project turning the stretch of Myra Ave. where it passes under Sunset Blvd. from a derelict dumping ground to a gallery of attractive murals. The first mural by artist Louie Metz which has now been completed incorporates historic photos from the FHRA collection and representations of current life in the area.

FHRA member Chris Casady complained about the lack of public input into the mural's design. As a result of Casady's concerns, much wider input was sought for the second Myra mural which should be completed by the end of this year. The FHRA had an online poll to select the design from two submitted by students at King Middle School also the school conducted its own poll of students, parents and teachers.

Bruce Carroll presented the FHRA treasurer's report saying the finances were in good shape. Carroll also reported that the wishes of Franklin Hills residents, as expressed in a poll last year, will come true, and the short section of Prospect Avenue just west of Vermont will not be closed off as some had proposed in redesigning the Vermont Triangle intersection at Hollywood Blvd.

The official business of the evening, electing six members of the eleven member FHRA board, was carried out swiftly. Candidate Anne Marie Ripley, told the audience, "I love walking through the hills and I have been active painting out graffiti." She will be joining reelected current board members: Chris Boutelle, Bruce Carroll, George Grace, Carol Skinner and Elliot Zeelander.

The most controversial topic of the evening revolved around what then appeared to be cancellation of a new school in our area. The LA Unified School District had been planning a nearby "Span School" with grades 6 through 12 to relieve serious overcrowding at Marshall High and King Middle School. Then they reversed course, claiming new population figures indicated the school was not needed. At the meeting FHRA member Mary Rodriguez, former GGPNC Education Committee Chair, contested LAUSD's demographic assumptions and urged residents to let the school board know that we really do need the span school because without it Marshall and King will still be operating at twice their design capacity. She also noted that the proposed Taylor Yard High School site is very likely contaminated from its railroad days.

As a result of such public concern, during the past summer the School Board once again changed

course and the "span school" is back on the planning agenda. Councilmember LaBonge favors building the school, and suggests it be located adjacent to the LA City College campus where the golf driving range was recently built. But Susan Cline, a former FHRA member, who manages planning and pre-construction of LAUSD projects, told the meeting that site is not large enough and they'd have to condemn many rental units and businesses along Vermont to put the school in near the LACC campus.

Then the meeting moved from big schools for lots of students to little schools for the littlest students. Representatives from three nearby preschools talked about their pro-

continued on page 10

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grams, progressive philosophies and parent participation. Missy Coombes spoke on behalf of the LA Family School on Griffith Park Blvd., Kenneth Robins described All Children Great and Small on Welch Pl., and Shelly Freiberger represented the preschool at the Silverlake Independent Jewish Community Center on Bates Ave.

The closing act, because they are always a tough act to follow, was our long time LAPD Senior Lead Officers. Ofc. Al Polehonki reported Franklin Hills crime is down, about 7% from last year, but not as much as the near 20% drops in the last three years. Ofc. Sam Salazar detailed recent success with the arrest of a suspect who had raised the number of thefts from motor vehicles in his area to about 20 in one week from it's usual 2. By spotting the trend early and applying extra resources his crime spree was quickly quenched. Polehonki warned Hondas and Toyotas are the most stolen cars but suggested the steering wheel Club defeats 99% of the thieves who are just out joy riding.

At least three lucky residents went away from the meeting with big smiles after winning door prizes of gift cards. FHRA member Sheri Mobley, who did such a great job publicizing our Shakespeare Bridge re-opening party in 1998, won a gift card from Skylight Books on Vermont. Other prizes got the winners meals at The Alcove Restaurant on Hillhurst and Giannino Restaurant on Hyperion.

The moral of the story is getting involved with the FHRA can be rewarding...not only for the community but for your palate and brain.

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LaBonge on Griffith Park continued from page 7

I support:

- Preserve interior of park
- Preserve wildlife habitats
- Expand park boundaries
- Purchase Cahuenga Peak for open space
- Expand public transit access to park
- Improve park management
- Expand educational opportunities for youth
- Reforest Toyon Canyon and Toyon Vista
- Develop passive recreation and picnic space at Toyon Canyon
- Preserve Dante's View, Captain's Roost, Amir's Garden
- Revitalize Bird Sanctuary and Fern Dell
- Maintain Martinez Arena for public equestrian use
- Audubon certification for all 5 golf courses
- Connect Griffith Park to Los Angeles River and Los Angeles River Bikeway
- Preserve and enhance equestrian trails
- Develop additional children's play areas
- Complete modernization of park water system
- Improve and expand youth sport activities (more sports fields)

I do not support:

- Commercialization of Griffith Park
- Off-road mountain biking
- Pleasure Pier over Los Angeles River
- Hotels
- Destination Restaurant at Griffith Observatory
- Culinary School
- New Roads
- Tram to Toyon Canyon
- Overhead Power Lines.

As we move along in the process of analyzing the draft of the Master Plan, I hope that you will continue to provide feedback to the Department of Recreation and Parks which is managing the process. You are welcome to attend the twice-monthly meetings of the Griffith Park Master Plan Working Group or submit comments online by visiting www.laparks.org.

Thank you for your interest in your community. Please feel free to contact me if you have additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

TOM LABONGE, Councilmember, 4th District

Hoover Walk Update

By Mary Frances Smith-Reynolds

The Hoover Walk beautification project is moving forward on both the landscaping and mural creation fronts. The cul-de-sac block leading up to the Hoover Walk stairwell site is also changing. Apartment buildings have been painted, homes and front yards have been spruced up and remodeled, and most dramatically, new homes are being constructed. Improvement on public and private property on this street is dove-tailing, and the whole neighborhood ultimately benefits.

The Hoover Walk beautification project is being funded by grants awarded by the Board of Public Works' Office of Community Beautification for the City of Los Angeles, with support from the Franklin Hills Residents' Association and the Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council.

On a warm June 11, a hard-working crew from the Hollywood Beautification Team (HBT) came to the site to clean, weed, and begin some terracing on the slopes. Another work day took place in October with further clearing, terracing, and planting. HBT will continue to

be a partner in this neighborhood project. So, too, is Council District 4. With recent help from Matt Levy and Rory Fitzpatrick of CD4, structural improvements have been made at this City site.

A mural, being painted on non-woven fabric, will be applied to the three panels of wall around the public stairwell. The fabric is hanging in muralist Ricardo Mendoza's studio, where he will complete it. In the meantime, the three walls at the site need to be prepped to receive this artwork. On a summer visit to Ricardo's Los Angeles studio, the fabric for the large center panel was covered with the ground "blocked in" colors. This is the base coat, and numerous coats of details will be added on top of this. This represented the earliest stages of the mural. Ricardo explained that he is using a "color-opposite ground painting technique," where the warm under-colors are selected to accept the future cooler tones of the final design.

"L.A.'s hot most of the time, and this will be a cool, soothing design," said Ricardo.

Completion of the project, slated for this winter, will warrant a celebration for the whole community.

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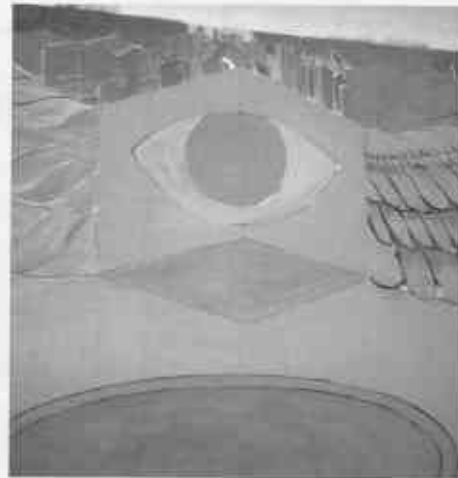
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Above: Members of a crew from the Hollywood Beautification Team weed, clean, and terrace the slopes at the Hoover Walk site on June 11.



Above: Rake in hand, community volunteer Paul Rudnicki helps the crew from the Hollywood Beautification Team on June 11 at the Hoover Walk site. Paul is a member of the Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council's Neighborhood Improvement Committee



Left: Artist Ricardo Mendoza with community activists Mary Rodriguez and Grace Li Qi Reynolds (on Mary's lap) on a summer visit to Ricardo's studio. The beginnings of the Hoover Walk mural hang behind them



Left: Artist-in-training Grace Li Qi Reynolds checks out some buckets of paint in the studio of muralist Ricardo Mendoza.

Photos by Mary Frances Smith-Reynolds

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POLICE REPORT

Below is the current report from Basic Car 11A71--our part of the world. This is copied directly from the Department's website, and you can go there any time to read about all of the Basic Cars in all of the Divisions in the City. Here it is:

Basic Car 11A71 - Franklin Hills
and Silver Lake
Senior Lead Officer Al Polehonki
, Serial #22869
Cellular Telephone 213-793-0763
Basic Car Coordinator
Sergeant Arthur Reyna #21163



Crime Trends

In the area covered by Basic Car 11A71 the most prevalent crime reported was Burglary Theft from Auto with 8 incidents reported. 11A71 had 13.7% of the crime in the Northeast Area during this time period.

Safety Tip

On average, 10 people are killed and 830 are injured in traffic collisions each day in California.

Traffic collisions have increased 30 percent between 1993 and 2003. Drinking and driving, speeding, and failing to wear a seat belt are responsible for a large number of traffic related deaths.

A traffic citation is one possible outcome for those who choose to violate traffic laws. A worse scenario is death or a serious injury. Car crashes are the leading cause of death and injury to children ages one to 15.

Please utilize your vehicles safety restraint systems and insist that your passengers do so as well.

When transporting children, be familiar with the different restraint systems available. Be it a car seat or booster seat, read the manufacturer's safety manual and use it every time.



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Commendable Caper:

On September 9th, 2005 at approximately 8:30 in the evening, Officer Flores (serial number 33396) and Officer Mazzacano serial number (34348) were working Northeast Area uniformed patrol. They responded to a disturbance call near Silverlake Boulevard and India Street that involved several people that were loitering near a motor home that had parked at the location for several days. When they arrived they observed the motor home and several people standing next to it. The officers exited their vehicle and began to approach on foot. One of the males immediately fled the area on foot and an additional police unit was requested. Several males and one female were detained as the officers initiated their investigation. A backpack that was dropped by one of the males was searched and found to contain several "Ninja" throwing stars.

A check of the motor home led to the discovery of what initially appeared to be a rifle. Further examination revealed that the item was a BB rifle.

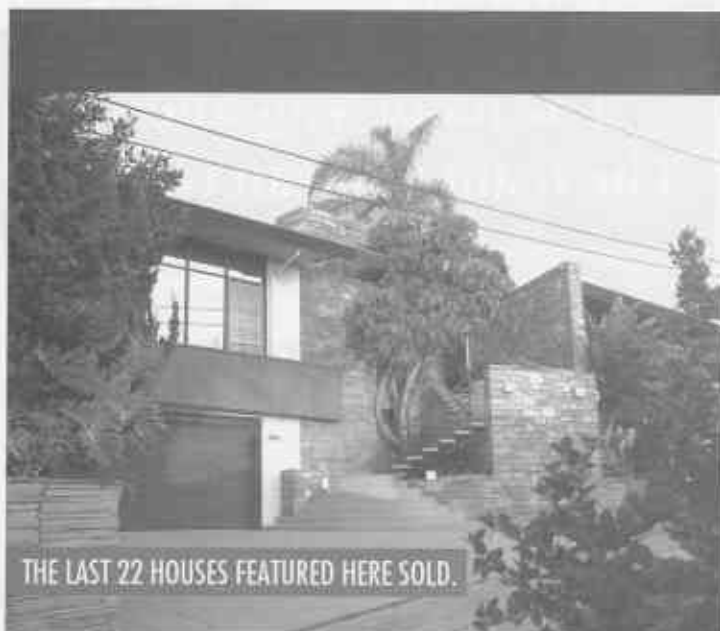
The male in possession of the throwing stars was booked for 12020 of the California Penal Code, Unlawful Possession of a Dangerous Weapon. A second male was arrested for two outstanding misdemeanor warrants.

The officers are commended for their attention to duty, tactics and investigative skills. Their efforts and the alert community members that initiated the radio call play a significant role in reducing criminal activity.

**E-mails relating equally impressive efforts have been circulating around the community; which is why none of them are here. If you haven't seen them, let me know via the web site and I'll send them to you.*

Editor.

Franklin Hills Overview: #30, Fall /Winter 2005



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Be Prepared. . .

By Violet Weber

In the past few months how many of us have glued ourselves to the TV with deep sadness and wondered what we would be doing about it if we were made homeless like those sad people enduring 'natural' disasters.

With fires roaring down the hillsides and a rain-storm not so very long ago isn't it wise for us to take stock of just how well prepared we really are—and surely we haven't forgotten that we live in earthquake country!

Why don't we, just for once stop talking about it and actually Be Prepared!

In the weeks and months after the Northridge quake this neighborhood was pretty well organized. Groups of households met on a semi-regular basis and knew where the shut-offs were; which rooms were bedrooms, and which houses had small children or elderly. Everyone said that they had food and supplies organized.

continued on page 17

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MONEY: Hard to come by in the best of times but hide two weeks worth of real cash. ATMs may be out, banks closed, government agencies ditto and your good cousin Jake may not have any either.

Keep the old gas buggy full. I know—I know you're already furious at the gas companies who are stealing you blind but how far can you get on an empty tank?

If you can find a roofer who isn't still busy with last year's rain take a good look at your roof. It really is worth it to know just how safe you are in a really hard rain storm. If a new roof is beyond your means find out where the leaks are and invest in some very large sheets of plastic. I wish I had done that. I could have saved myself several thousand dollars worth of good carpets and soaking floors and six months of waiting for a roofer.

Look for ways to protect your property. You might be protecting your home and your life. Maybe lay in a little supply of sandbags to divert some of the runoff, keep it away from the foundation of your house. You can ask your local fire station, they may have a full supply.

CAR keep your car ready to get out of the city just in

case. Bottled water, non-perishable food, a transistor radio, a large emergency lantern; a tool kit. Matches and a lighter, walking shoes and socks and a change of clothing (warm) and money hidden somewhere in the car. Keep maps in your car and a list of phone numbers. A cell phone and a spare battery could save someone's life.

BE NEIGHBORLY and be safe. The more people helping the safer all are. If you don't have a Neighborhood Watch start one or join one now.

MAKE a plan where to meet—a church a, a school or whatever you have. Each person must have a plastic coated card with information: name, address, phone numbers, person to contact in an emergency. Designate a family member who lives enough far away that the phones are working to be the contact person.

Understand that the first responders may not be able to reach us for some time. Especially on narrow winding streets. Remember what we learned in Katrina and Rita and stay prepared.



*Lightening seen from Franklin & Mayview
Just as the old saying that, "lightening never
strikes twice," is untrue so is the hopeful wish,
"it could never happen here." As we've seen
around the world too many times this past
year, disaster can strike anytime anyplace.*

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The Brilliant Solution to the page 17 Riddle:



Bureau of Street Services worker Victor Mosley hands a new street light globe to Valentin Sosa at the west end of the Franklin Avenue median. The pair replaced the whole lamp post with a refurbished one originally manufactured in the 1920s by The King Manufacturing Company.

Los Angeles now has over 242,000 street lights in 400 different styles. The lamp post that was replaced was likely newer than its replacement, as it was a replica of an old style lamp, rather than a genuine, one refurbished.

In the 1990s the FHRA successfully opposed efforts to replace the historic lighting along Franklin Ave. with modern cobra style lights.

Lycee International de Los Angeles (LILA) Welcomes New Head of School

by Anne Richardson


As you may or may not know, right underneath the Shakespeare bridge that you cross everyday is a remarkable school, the Los Feliz campus of The Lycee International de Los Angeles (LILA), also known as The French American Schools of Southern California.

The Los Feliz campus of LILA offers a fully bilingual, bicultural program serving children from pre-school (age 4) through high school. It holds dual accreditation from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges and from the French Ministry of Education. Students may choose among tracks for taking the French baccalaureate, the International baccalaureate, or receiving an American High School Diploma. Most of the students (about 60% this year) do not come from French families and do not speak French at home. In addition, scholarships are offered to students from France so that families who could not otherwise afford the school can attend. Scholarships are also available for non-French students based upon financial need.

Total enrollment on the four campuses (Los Feliz, Tarzana, Monrovia-Pasadena, and North Tustin), is over 700 students.

This past July, LILA brought in a new Head of School, John Larner. Dr. Larner earned his B.A. and M.A. in English from Bucknell University and his Doctor of Arts in English from Carnegie Mellon University. He has taught extensively in England and France and served as Head of School for the French American International School in Portland, Oregon. He will now serve as Head of School for all four campuses of LILA, as well as the Campus Director of the Los Feliz campus on Russell Avenue.

In addition to its regular academic calendar, the school hosts various "camps" for students throughout the year. The French academic calendar runs for seven weeks, then has a week off, from September through June. Therefore, the school has a week off at the end of October, December, February, and April. In October, the school runs a circus camp, with a final recital this past year (open to the public) on Friday, October 28, from 2-4 p.m. The school also runs Science and Arts camps in February and April, respectively. During the summer, the school has a five week long camp with sports, arts, field trips, and various activities. Non-LILA students can apply to the camps.



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LILA has been part of our neighborhood for many years and plays an important role in the community. The community garden is located along the eastern side of the school, and a group of neighbors (unrelated to the school) has a Saturday soccer practice there on a regular basis. Adam Weisman, a Franklin Hills resident and past President of the FHRA, is Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees and on numerous committees. Dr. Lerner welcomes more community input and involvement, from area French classes visiting the campus to observe fully bilingual French education, to speakers, to participation on their Community Liaison Committee.



Adam Weisman & Dr. Lerner

Dr. Lerner says he realizes that not all community reaction to LILA has been rosy. In the past, noise from the school has wound itself up the hill in our little bowl. He says he hopes that neighbors will direct their inquiries, questions, and concerns directly to him so that he can learn from past mistakes and cultivate a more neighborly relationship between town and gown. Neighbors interested in getting more involved with the school should also contact him directly. Dr. Lerner can be reached at (323) 665-4526.

Parents interested in further information or admission should call Ms. Valerie Lesure, Director of Admissions, at the same number.

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Franklin Hills references available

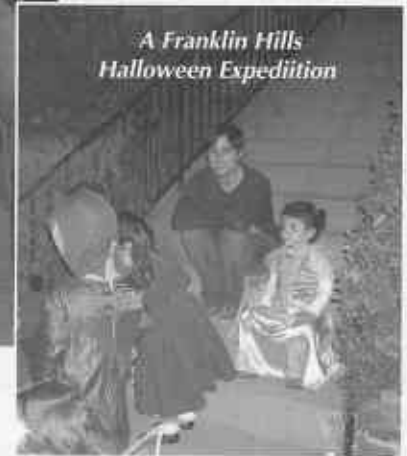
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*photos: Anne Richardson
and Elliot Zeelander*



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| Los Feliz Cooperative Nursery School | (323) 662-8300 |
| Lycee International de Los Angeles | (323) 665-4526 |
| Lyric Preschool and Kindergar | (323) 667-2275 |
| The Neighborhood Nursery School | (323) 665-0209 |
| Rose Scharlin Cooperative Nursery | (323) 661-1319 |
| Silverlake Independent JCC | (323) 663-2255 |

Clash Over Trash

By Chris Boutelle

Are you tired of coming home past that neighbor's house where they leave their trash and recycling containers out on the street all week? Evidently some of our Franklin Hills residents are, judging from the calls over the past few months.

We all know that the contents of trash, recycling and green waste containers are picked up on Thursdays and that the containers may be put out on the street in front of the property, on the street, on the preceding evening. But did you know that there is a city ordinance that states that you must remove these containers from the public streets by that evening or risk a fine from the city?

I called Patricia Malone (1-818-755-7893), the new Field Deputy to our Councilmember Tom LaBonge and asked her for help finding the ordinance. Ms. Malone was very helpful and found the following information.

Section 66.00.1 passage E of LA Municipal code, Article 6, Chapter 6:

No person occupying or in possession of any premises

where refuse is scheduled to be collected between the hours of 6 AM and 6 PM shall place any container containing refuse or any refuse not in a container at the proper place of collection as specified in Section 8 hereof before 6 PM of the day preceding the scheduled collection of said refuse, nor leave any such container at such place of collection after 8 PM of the day of actual collection.

There you have it. The containers should be off the public street for the rest of the week. They may be kept on your property nearby, but they must be off any city property. There is a telephone number for the Street Use Inspector that you may call to have offenders cited. That number is 1-800-996-2489.

On another note in the same general Trashy information, you may call the Bureau of Sanitation at 1-800-773-2489 or the city's all-encompassing services telephone number 311 if you need a new refuse container because yours is damaged or broken. You may also request one of the new, smaller containers, if you have little trash or green waste to go out each week or if you simply do not have the space for a full sized container.

Do you want to help save the city money and the atmosphere at the same time? Only put your recycling and green waste containers out for collection when

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BTFV

they are half full or above. I personally share the garbage container and blue recycling container with my next door neighbor in order to cut down on the trucks' stops. The skipped stop will save the city money from the starting and stopping of the trucks at your door (including diesel fuel, time and wear and tear on the brakes in our hills) and the increased exhaust fumes from accelerating away from your home to the next neighbor's house. Even the noise pollution of an extra dumping cycle or two is cut down. It all adds up.

BTFV means :Burglary Theft from Vehicle. It's the favorite crime in our neighborhood, altho GTA is popular too. Our police officers are diligent about catching bad guys and tracking down stolen property but we ought to make it harder to steal from us.

- Don't leave stuff in the car--nothing visible
- Don't leave the keys in the car
- Lock the car when you leave
- Use a club (the officers will help you get one)
- Use a turn-off switch on your ignition.

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

Would you like to help decorate the bridge this year? It takes a short time early in the morning; once to put up the lights and once to take them down. Owners of cherry pickers particularly welcome. Call the hot line (323) 908-6078 or e-mail us at FHRA@Franklin Hills .org



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This holiday season mix with your cheer,
Reflections on our globe's disastrous year.
Mother nature reached deep, far and wide,
With quakes, hurricanes and tsunami tide.
Our hills were soggy from LA's record rains,
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With no disaster immunity pills,
Let's all be prepared in these Franklin Hills.
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