

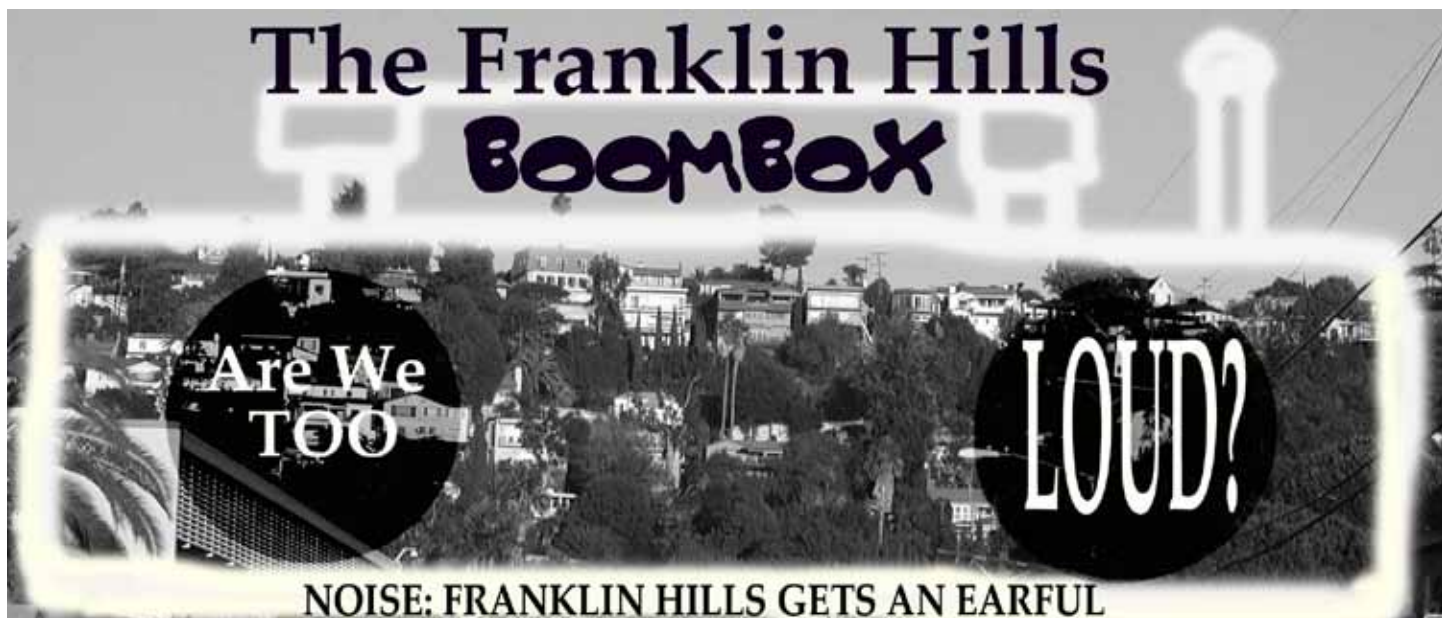


OVERVIEW

FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

ISSUE # 34

Fall-Winter 2007



By Sheri Mobley

(with contributions from Ricardo Gomez and Bruce Carroll)

Within our community, the issue of noise has definitely become amplified, based on the volume of phone calls and emails to the FHRA. There has been a marked increase in noise complaints since mid-Summer. Complaints include loud parties, blaring music, radios and TVs at all hours, barking dogs, car and house alarms, even helicopters. "I considered adding earplugs to our product line of FHRA T-shirts, as it appears they would be a best seller," joked FHRA treasurer Bruce Carroll.

But the FHRA is seriously addressing this quality-of-life matter. Ricardo Gomez, past President of the FHRA, has volunteered to re-activate and head up the FHRA Noise Abatement Committee.

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One of its first actions responded to a request from neighbors adjacent to Thomas Starr King Middle School. Their complaint: the noise (as well as litter, lack of parking, public alcohol consumption, fistfights) associated with an adult soccer league that used the field on the weekends. The FHRA sent a letter to the School's principal outlining the disturbances. King responded quickly and cooperatively. This league's permit was not renewed; their last game at King was played at the end of October. Good news for area residents!

Another resident complained about a nearby loud radio playing during the day. Her question was "Is it legally okay to ask the neighbors to turn it down,

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President's Report Charley M. Mims

As we enjoy another wonderful Franklin Hills Fall season, I am reminded of several friends who have recently returned from visiting New England to witness the spectacular turning of the leaves to bright reds, yellows and other brilliant colors. Well, we will just have to get through this Fall with views of our evergreens and the (seasonally) warm weather!

Last June the Franklin Hills Residents Association conducted our Annual Meeting at Prospect Studios. New Board members were elected—David Holladay, who lives on Udell Court; Janice Hynek, who lives on Lyric Avenue; and Sheri Mobley, who also lives on Lyric Avenue. David has helped with neighborhood cleanup, Janice and her husband David deliver an Overview route, and Sheri delivers an Overview route. Sheri Mobley volunteered her publicity services while serving on our Bridge Committee and was greatly responsible for the three thousand folks who showed up for the Bridge Party when the Shakespeare Bridge was re-opened several years ago. They join returning Board members Chris Boutelle, Bruce Carroll, George Grace, Carol Skinner, Eric Frase, Juli Kolb and Anne Richardson. Oh yes, and me!

It was a great Annual Meeting where a lot of useful information was shared. We heard from our local police officers, from our Councilman, Tom LaBonge and from several folks at Prospect Studios, who explored the interesting history of this landmark property.

While we get ready for the holiday season, it is worthwhile to reflect on milestones from the past year. We continue to build a strong relationship with John Fleck, the President of LILA and his staff. They have continued to improve community relations by following through on plans to calm and quiet the school campus. The bells that used to sound out class changes, recess and the beginning and end of school (even on the weekends) have now been replaced by soundless lighted alerts for these activities. Thank you LILA! They also continue to work on security issues to avoid unauthorized persons from being on campus especially at non-school times.

Manie Ellis, the manager at Prospect Studios, has continued a great relationship with the neighborhood. They take good care of the studio properties, abating graffiti, watering and trimming tress, and generally keeping the property in great shape. Thanks Manie!

A number of "Franklin Hills folk" volunteered to clean up our local public stairways on the Mayor's Day of Service/Big Sunday this year. Come out yourself to help next year (probably in May.)

We plan to put up holiday lighting on the Shakespeare Bridge again this year—look for us next month and drive slowly and carefully while on that stretch of Franklin Avenue. We continue to maintain the median island that runs westerly from the Bridge and gratefully accept donations to help with that work. When you are out walking around the neighborhood, walk up Monon, the street that takes you under the Bridge, where you will see a lovely gardened slope where youngsters used to hang out, build fires, vandalize the Bridge with graffiti and do other illicit activities. The FHRA helped to establish the garden and neighbors at the end of the street maintain it. What a neighborhood!

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FHRA XIX - Return to the Studio

BY BRUCE CARROLL



The FHRA's nineteenth annual meeting in June, which returned to The Prospect Studios for the first time since 2001, was a big hit with Franklin Hills residents. After a warm welcome from studio Manager, Manie Ellis, The crowd of about 140 area residents then got to meet LAPD Captain Jose Perez who was enthusiastic about his new assignment as area commanding officer of the Northeast Division. He promised he'll be reaching out to the community and despite the fact he acknowledged he is "understaffed for the huge area," he promised to make Northeast "the preeminent division in the city."

The meeting also heard from our LAPD Senior Lead Officers. Officer Sam Salazar reported on details of the May shootout along Prospect which apparently resulted from relationship issues between the adult shooters' teenaged brothers. Two suffered bullet wounds and there were 2 car crashes during the getaway, but the District Attorney has told LAPD they don't have enough evidence to take the case to trial. Officer Al Polehonki talked about the increased graffiti activity, but had good news the day after the meeting when two teenagers were arrested for covering much of the Franklin Hills area with their "23" tag and other acts of vandalism.

With an eye to area history, and the calendar, ABC Broadcast Systems Engineering Manager, William Prestwidge, made an appeal for those in the neighborhood who know bits of the studio's history to get in touch as they are preparing for the 100th anniversary of Vitagraph's entry into the Franklin Hills in 1912. If you have history to share you can e-mail us at FHRA@FranklinHills.org and we'll put you in touch.

Then it was time for a bit of entertaining history from the studio's past. FHRA board member Bruce Carroll showed clips from the 1921 slapstick comedy/action 2 reeler "The Bellboy" starring Larry Semon (the producer who almost bankrupted Vitagraph) and a young Oliver Hardy. Then scenes of adventure and romance from the 1926 feature "Sea Beast" where John Barrymore hunts Moby Dick from a whaling ship that sailed the seven seas in what is now the Prospect Studio parking lot.

When it was back to business. FHRA President Charley Mims gave his state-of-the-hill speech touching on the recent stairway cleanup, our median mainte-

continued on page 7

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Tracking the Taggers

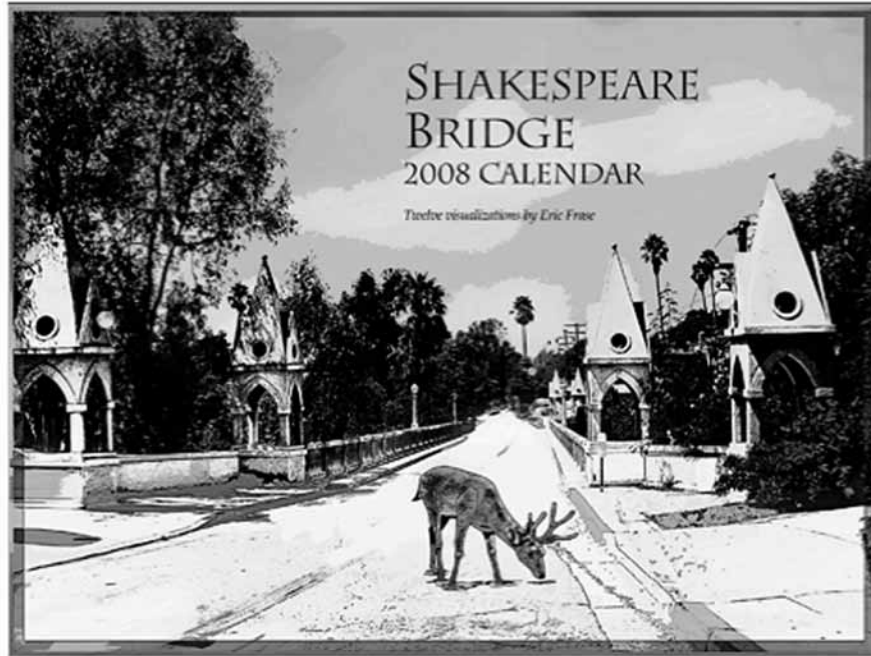
By Bruce Carroll

The Franklin Hills is now officially in a "Graffiti Free Zone" according to Councilmember Tom LaBonge. It seems the increase in area graffiti the last 6-9 months is another example of the law of unintended consequences. When John Marshall High upgraded its video surveillance there was a tremendous drop in graffiti...on campus. Alas, the graffiti was "pushed into the surrounding neighborhoods" according to Marshall's new Principal, Daniel Harrison.

The Graffiti Free Zone is designed to bring more graffiti abatement resources to our area. The Hollywood Beautification Team will be working to remove what's here and making more frequent inspections to remove what's new. LAPD's Northeast Division will be increasing its patrols, especially in pre and after school hours at locations where tagging teens have been tarnishing our turf.

Also part of the program, according to LaBonge's new Transportation and Housing Deputy, Sharon Shapiro, is an effort to install off campus surveillance cameras to catch the taggers. One possible location under consideration is the stairway from Franklin down to the Sanborn clu-de-sac, a favored student hangout.

There are two things that you can do to help the effort. If you see graffiti, e-mail a photo of it to Sharon.Shapiro@lacity.org this will help ID the taggers. Marshall High has a database which often can match to tags to the taggers. You can also contact Shapiro if you want to be a graffiti block captain and get paint and other tools to hit the delete key on tagging in your area.



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LA Ponders Paucity of Parks & Parking

By Bruce Carroll

Park(ing) Day LA was a way for activists, artists and locally architects to take to the streets in a creative way to demonstrate what they feel is a mis-allocation of LA's precious land...too little in neighborhood parks...too much hiding under all our cars.

That's why on September 21st you could find two of our area's most noted architects away from their drawing boards and out on Hyperion Ave. gathering curious gazes from motorists.

First to set up was Ricardo Accorsi, a former FHRA board member who has experience in turning hardscape into landscape. In 1995 his designs and hard work helped turn the urban dream of landscaping the then asphalt Franklin Avenue median into reality

On Park(ing) Day LA Accorsi's mini-park featured several trees, plus Scrabble and dominos for



recreation. His efforts drew smiles from motorists, approving comments from pedestrians and even a documentary crew affiliated with Al Gore's Current. TV channel (www.Current.tv). He also managed to keep the cost down, discovering the meter he picked was in the "fail" mode saving a few quarters in rent for the four hour park.

Farther south on Hyperion, architect Michael Lehrer set up his "park" in front of his office. He created a plywood SUV cutout, named "99 gallons per mile." It was topped with 99 balloons which represent the volume of the 1.57 pounds of carbon dioxide emitted into our air by each mile of SUV travel.

Leher's design was featured in the LA times and while both displays seemed to be approvingly embraced along Hyperion, the LA Times reported, "in other neighborhoods, the reaction was more complex -- and perplexed." Near MacArthur Park one man said, "This is a street, you know. It's not good to put that there."

Answers to Puzzler on page 20

Down

- 1. French
- 3. Fire
- 4. Talmadge
- 5. Coyote
- 8. Disney
- 10. Graffiti
- 12. St.
- 13. Joes
- 14. Stairs
- 16. Red
- 19. King

Across

- 2. Griffith
- 6. ABC
- 7. Holly
- 9. Los
- 11. Shakespeare
- 13. John
- 15. Berry
- 17. Stop
- 18. Franklin



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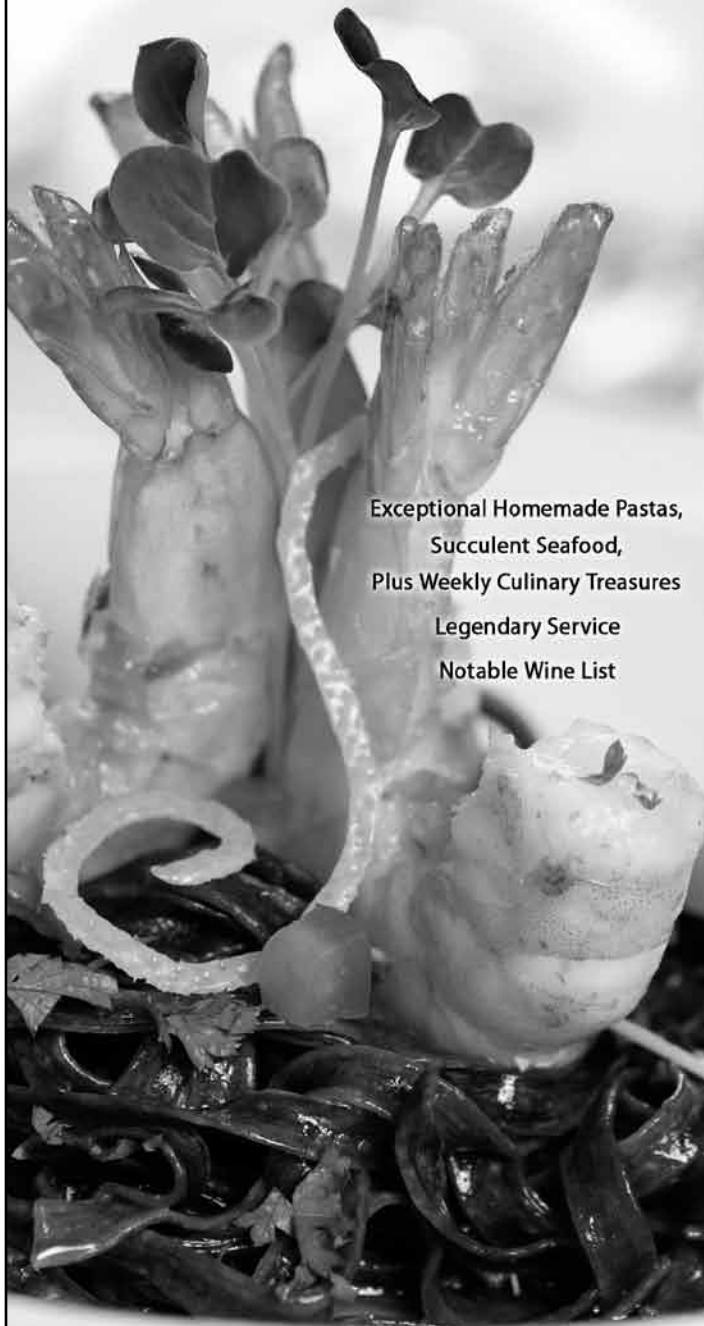
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TRANSPORTATION CAN BE EDUCATIONAL

Mary Rodriguez, Education Deputy,



I have been a resident-activist in the Los Feliz and Franklin Hills communities working with the local public schools for over 17 years. In July, Councilman LaBonge asked me if I would consult him on school related issues and become his education deputy. I gladly accepted the opportunity to work with all 25 schools within Council District 4.

Thomas Starr King Middle School has always held a special place in my heart since my children attended from 1996 to 2002. As a year-round school with 2,800 students King's new year began in July and it brought a new challenge. The administration needed to convince the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) to reinstate the bus pick up to the front of the school at dismissal time.

Early last year, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) set new guidelines regarding school bus routes. Concerned with losing needed federal money the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) stopped providing the 3 dedicated buses to the front of the school at dismissal and instead allowed 400-500 students to walk two blocks up to Sunset Blvd. & Fountain Ave. the nearest official bus stop.

Initially, two blocks didn't seem like a far distance to have students walk but the narrow sidewalks along Fountain Ave. were not designed to carry hundreds of students at one time and so many of the students were spilling out onto the street. The school administration was concerned for the student's safety.

Also, the constant stream of so many students stopped cars from turning left onto Talmadge or Bates causing traffic to jam on Fountain Ave. and the surrounding businesses began to complain about so many energetic middle school children at one time. LAPD was receiving calls of misconduct. It seems that the MTA decision was having a much greater impact than anyone ever anticipated.

So on August 24th MTA representatives met with King's Assistant Principal Mark Jolley, a representative of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), the mayor's office and Councilmember Tom LaBonge's Transportation Deputy Sharon Shapiro, and his new Education Deputy, myself, to discuss the entire matter.

continued on page 7

PRESIDENT continued from page 2

Whether you are visiting relatives or friends away from home or are enjoying another wonderful Franklin Hills Thanksgiving and holiday season, please be careful, be sober, and come through the holidays healthy and happy with lots of good memories.

Best wishes for another season of good cheer with friends and family.

Annual Meeting-continued from page 3

nance, efforts to get the LILA school to comply with its conditional use permit. (see page 12) He also called for volunteers to head up FHRA's graffiti abatement efforts.

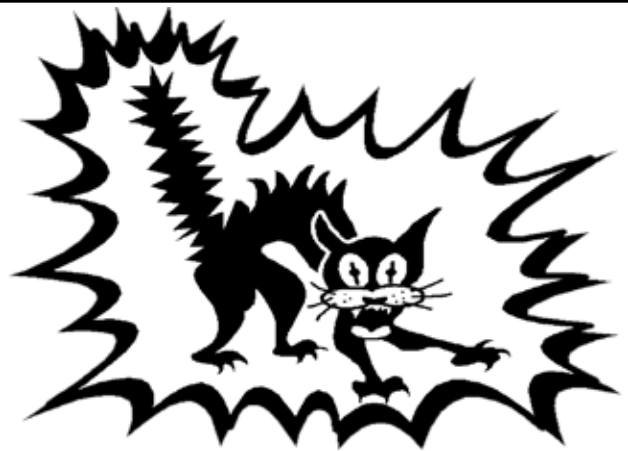
One of the main purposes of the meeting was to elect new FHRA board members and this year we had eight candidates running for six regular positions and one vacant seat. When the ballots were tallied three new board members were elected: David Holladay from Udell Ct. and Janice Hynek and Sheri Mobley, both Lyric Ave. residents. Board members Chris Boutelle, Bruce Carroll, George Grace and Carol Skinner were reelected.

But you don't have to be elected to be involved. If you see something you want to help improve in our community let us know and we'll work together to make the Franklin Hills an even better place to live.

TRANSPORTATION continued from page 6

Shortly thereafter, with a guarantee from the FTA that they would not lose needed federal money, MTA agreed to reinstate the 3 dedicated busses to the front of the school. The bus stop and time is now posted for anyone from the public to utilize. There is only one small glitch; the school has early dismissal on Tuesdays, and the FTA guidelines does not allow for a deviation from the posted times just to accommodate the school's schedule. But the school is very thankful for the four days of the week that the hundreds of students quickly and safely leave the King campus for home.

I look forward to the opportunity to work with Councilman LaBonge and the many schools in Council District 4. I hope I can continue to make successful connections between LAUSD and the resources of our great and wonderful City (Mary Rodriguez is the Education Deputy for Councilman Tom LaBonge. Her two children attended Franklin Ave. Elementary, Thomas Starr King Middle School, and John Marshall High School.)



Market Too Scary?

Sure, the news of late has been enough to cause concern, but don't over-react like a Hallowe'en cat. There are sound opportunities in the current real estate market—for sellers and for buyers. Well-priced houses that have good "bones", but may need some fixing, as well as designer-done houses, are still selling for premium prices. Interest rates are low, and getting lower, and some of the easier-to-qualify-for "jumbo" loans are back. Current inventories offer something for everybody—and for all budgets.

Need some help determining what's best for you now? Let's chat soon. Over time, investing in local real estate is still the wisest choice you can make.



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Noise: continued from page 1

or does that only come into effect after a certain time? How loud is permissible”?

Ricardo Gomez, our volunteer noise abatement expert, responded promptly. ‘Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 112.01 covers radios, television sets and similar devices. Subsection (a) states that it is unlawful to play a radio or other amplified music in a manner “as to disturb the peace, quiet, and comfort of neighbor occupants or any reasonable person residing or working in the area.” If you can clearly hear your neighbor’s radio without straining your ears, it is probably a violation. There are no time restrictions with respect to applying Section 112.01”.

Many of the noise complaints that the FHRA receives include a second complaint: lack of action by the Los Angeles Police Department on their noise problem. At FHRA annual meetings since 1989 we’ve heard our local police officers say “there are not enough officers and resources in the LAPD

Northeast Division to handle all the calls received,” and this is especially true for those “disturbing-the-peace” calls.

As taxpayers we may not like hearing that our police do not have the manpower they need to quiet things down -- an important fact to keep in mind when city elections roll around again -- but it is the reality. However, there are positive steps we can take, as individuals and as a community association, to lower the noise level. (See accompanying story with noise abatement tips by Ricardo Gomez, plus sidebar on barking dogs.)

The FHRA Board will do what we can for noise abatement, and at www.franklinhills.org you can find updated information on local noise issues. But each resident should consider what they might be doing that inadvertently contributes to noise pollution -- do you know if your dog barks incessantly when you aren’t home? Does your car or home

alarm frequently go off? Is your teenager playing loud music with the windows open? Do you begin noisy home improvement projects early in the morning? Do you host boisterous parties? (If so, at least consider inviting your neighbors!)

With thoughtfulness, patience and communication we can all work together for a quieter Franklin Hills. Otherwise...ear plugs anyone?



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Doggone it!

Barking Abatement

by Sheri Mobley

Sometimes man's best friend seems like anything but! This is especially true when it's 2am and you are trying to get some sleep and a neighbor's dog is wide awake and barking. Here's the 411 on dog barking according to The City of Los Angeles Animal Services:

It is against the law for a dog owner, or anyone in control or custody of a dog, to allow the dog to make excessive noise, after receiving a legal notice of the noise complaint and a request to make it stop. The term "excessive noise" means noise which is unreasonably annoying, disturbing, offensive, or which unreasonably interferes with the comfortable enjoyment of life or property of one or more persons occupying property in the community or neighborhood. This law does not apply to a commercial animal establishment with a legal permit. (LAMC 53.63)

If you are experiencing a problem with a barking dog, the FHRA strongly suggests that you first contact the dog owner. If possible, personally approach the owner in a non-accusatory manner with a kind request for noise abatement, the assumption should be that the neighbor isn't aware of his own dog-barking problem. If the personal approach isn't possible, then consider writing a letter (anonymously if you are more comfortable with that) outlining your complaint in a reasonable way.

If the above steps don't work then you can submit a written complaint to the Los Angeles Animal Care Center.

To file a complaint, you must write a letter including the following: Your Name, Your Address, Your Phone Number, Address of the barking dog, Description of the Problem, "Your Signature.

Send your complaint letter directly to the Animal Care Center that services our area. Animal Care Center, North Central 3201 Lacy Street, Los Angeles, CA 90031. Telephone: 888-4LAPET1, 888-452-7381, FAX 213-847-0555

The Animal Care Center will send a stern letter to the offending household, outlining the law and their obligations as dog owners. The complainants name and address will not be revealed with this first letter. And, according to local residents who have had to take this action, this first letter from the City usually does the trick.

The bottom line: the affected resident must be willing to do some work to get relief from the dog barking. But the result will be a better night's sleep in our Franklin Hills.

For more detailed information on dog barking complaints go to:

www.laanimalservices.com/serv_barkingdog.htm



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Noisy Neighbors-Your Legal Rights

by Ricardo Gomez

So, your neighbor enjoys his or her music at high volume at all hours of the day and you can't get any peace and quiet. Perhaps your neighbor loves to have parties with loud music and raucous noise spilling outside through open doors, windows, or from groups of people in yards, on patios, decks or balconies. Weekend after weekend, night after night, you can't sleep

or enjoy your house. You talk to your neighbor, he or she responds with platitudes or maybe with something worse, and the problem continues. What should you do? Continue to suffer in silence? Move? No. There is a solution if you know your rights and work closely with the police and concerned community members. The Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) prohibits loud parties and loud music in residential zones. The LAMC accomplishes this through several code sections which are tailored to differing situations.

If your neighbor is someone who likes to blast his stereo, radio, or television and it disturbs you, he has probably violated LAMC Section 112.01 (a). This section makes it unlawful for anyone to operate a radio, television, or any device which amplifies voice or music, in such a manner as to disturb the peace, quiet, and comfort of neighbor occupants or any reasonable person residing or working in the area. The determination is fairly easy. If you can clearly hear your neighbor's music on your property and it annoys you, your neighbor is probably violating Section 112.01(a). If the music is so loud that you can clearly hear it when you stand 150 feet from your neighbor's property line, then a violation is presumed under LAMC Section 112.01(b). You don't have to worry about reasonableness and the violation is automatic. Likewise, if your neighbor's loud music exceeds the ambient noise level of your property by more than five decibels, Section 112.01(c) presumes a violation. Section 112.01(c) also applies when you live in an apartment or condo, and the offending music is coming through the walls of an adjoining unit.

The above code sections apply regardless of the time of day or night. There is no noise till 10pm exception. While the above code sections apply to loud parties, loud parties are accorded some additional special treatment. LAMC Section 41.57 prohibits loud and raucous noise emanating from private or public property. Loud and raucous noise is any noise emitted from any sound making or sound amplifying device. This section was designed to outlaw loud parties and violating it is a misdemeanor. This section operates in conjunction with LAMC Section 41.58 the Loud Party Second Response Fee. Under this Section, if the police arrive at a party and determine there is a threat to public peace, they can issue a first response notice to the person having the party. If the police are called again to that party, they can issue a second response notice and then bill the property owner for the cost of the second police response. These costs can be very hefty.

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Finally, we have the catch all California Penal Code Section 415, disturbing the peace which makes it a misdemeanor to maliciously and willfully disturb another person by loud and unreasonable noise.

Our current laws protect us from rude neighbors who blast their stereos and other sound equipment. The problem has been with enforcing these laws. If talking with your neighbor has not solved the problem, or for some reason you can't talk to your neighbor, your immediate solution is to call the police. You should call 1-877-ASK-LAPD (1-877-275-5273) which is the LAPD's non-emergency reporting number. Give the operator the address where the party or loud music is coming from. You have two options. Just allow the police to show up and handle the matter. This may solve that particular incident. However, if you are dealing with a repeat problem, tell the operator that you want to file a complaint. This entails the officers coming to your house and taking a report. This may be quite time consuming given the long response times to these kinds of complaints. Filing a complaint usually solves the problem because a detective will contact you in about a week and a follow up contact with the offender will occur.

Often it is difficult or impossible to get through to the LAPD, especially on weekends. We suggest that you keep a record of when and how often the disturbing music or parties occur. This can be as simple as noting dates and times on a calendar or sheet of paper. If you can record the noise, it is even better. Send an email to FHRA and we will contact you and walk you through some solutions. We are getting these problem locations referred to the Senior Lead Officers. Our SLOs are aware of the problem and are doing their best to help out. However, the City has made anti-noise enforcement a very low priority and it no longer funds an LAPD unit to handle these problems. These repeat noise locations are public nuisances. We are asking the Los Angeles City Attorneys Office to take a more proactive role in abating these nuisances. Finally, most of the problem locations we are aware of are amenable to civil nuisance suits for injunctions in Superior Court or, if you cannot afford an attorney, you can file a damage suit in small claims court.

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Lycee Los Feliz: A Work in Progress

by Juli Kolb

In the last issue of the Overview, I wrote about the ongoing efforts to enforce the conditional use permit-(C.U.P.) at Lycee International School (LILA). Over the past six months, LILA has made great progress implementing the changes necessary to bring the school under the bridge into compliance, as well as improve the circumstances of the surrounding community.

At the September FHRA Board meeting, newly appointed LILA Los Feliz Campus Director, Emmanuel Bonin, along with School President, Elizabeth Chaponot, and CFO John Fleck reported the following achievements. LILA is now closed on weekends, allowing the residents a respite from the weekday activities. Outdoor bells have been replaced with a silent flashing light system. Traffic mitigation steps are in process on Russell Avenue and extra security has been added. Additionally,

the long requested emergency contact number has been established. An explanation follows at the end of this article. This is great news and although they have an obligation to perform, it is nonetheless wonderful progress.

Now to the work still to be done, a major C.U.P. condition and a significant concern to the community is the number of students. The C.U.P. allows a maximum of 350. LILA currently has 450 students, an over enrollment of 100. LILA had made a commitment to be at 350 by September 2007. Unfortunately, that is not the case. LILA's intention to divide the campus into a pre-K through 6 at Los Feliz and 7 through 12 at another location collapsed with a failed real estate deal. September 2008 is the new promised date. Enforcement of the C.U.P. is a community issue and the FHRA does not condone the lack of compliance, however given LILA's efforts to date and their willingness to continue to work with the community, it is my belief that we will see enrollment goals met within the next year.

Finally, I will continue to monitor LILA's efforts and work with Mr. Bonin to achieve complete C.U.P. compliance. If you have a LILA issue please e-mail FHRA@FranklinHills.org.





CHANGES AT LYCÉE INTERNATIONAL DE LOS ANGELES TO BENEFIT SURROUNDING COMMUNITY

LILA has set up a toll-free phone line so that neighbors can call in to report, or discuss, emergencies or issues related to the campus. The new 24/7 "good neighbor" phone number is: 866-307-8317.

During daytime an answering service will immediately contact the designated representative from the LILA campus and one of the school directors will return the call within minutes. After 6 PM, calls will be referred directly to a security patrol which will be able to intervene quickly and efficiently.

Due to concerns regarding suspicious after-hour activities, LILA is also working with the Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council to have surveillance cameras mounted in the vicinity of the Shakespeare Bridge, in addition to those already installed at the Russell Avenue gate. We are anticipating that the cameras will serve as a deterrent, which will help make this area safer for everyone. LILA will have the cameras installed by next month.

LILA takes pride in being proactive in terms of being a good fellow resident, setting up and cultivating good relations; establishing channels for ongoing communication with neighbors and community leaders alike; and helping make the area more secure. The school wants to make every effort to be a prominent part of this community which it calls home.

Emmanuel
Bonin

LILA –
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Campus
Director



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Here comes the holiday season once again and with it, vehicle burglaries. We are currently at an 11% increase in this area. Please keep things out of sight and try to park in well-lit areas.

Northeast Divisions crime reduction efforts currently stand as follows:

Violent crime is down 1.8%

Property crime is down 5.6%

You may have heard that there was a shooting several months ago on Prospect Avenue near Myra Avenue. There was an overwhelming response from neighbors who either witnessed the shooting or came out and saw the participants fleeing. This and good detective work led to the identification of the involved parties. When all was said and done, the District Attorneys office chose not to file the case. Frustrating but not a total loss. Prospect Studios in its continuing efforts to be a good neighbor quickly facilitated the installation of additional

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lighting along Prospect Avenue as it heads east towards Sanborn Avenue. While this may not have prevented the daytime shooting that occurred, it will certainly enhance safety in the evening hours for pedestrians and may prevent vehicle burglaries. By the time this reaches you, the studio may have also finished enhancing security on the north side of its property along Russell Avenue near the dead end. This would include new landscaping, lighting, and a monitoring system. Many thanks go to Mr. Reyes, head of security at Prospect Studios and to the Walt Disney Company.

Although the following are not really police related, please take the time to consider them.

Many people use candles to create a festive holiday atmosphere in their homes. But the warm, relaxing feeling


can quickly turn to tragedy. The following safety tips will help to reduce the potential for a candle-related fire.

1. Keep matches, lighters, and candles away from children.
2. Never leave a burning candle unattended.
3. Trim candlewicks to 1/4 inch before lighting each time.
4. Keep combustible materials away from candles.
5. Use non-flammable, heat resistant candleholders and make sure that they are large enough to catch dripping wax.
6. Place candles where they cannot be knocked over by small children and pets.
7. Keep candles away from drafts, windowsills, and drapes.
8. Always have at least one fire extinguisher in your home. Your local Fire Department station can provide you with information on the various types available.

Part of your holiday preparations should include placing fresh batteries in your smoke detectors and testing each one to ensure that they work. Check the wiring on your holiday decorations and discard any that show wear or exposed wiring. Have a safe and happy holiday season.

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Myra Avenue Mural

By Peter Bedard

The Myra Avenue Mural Project is proud to announce our third mural at the Myra Avenue Underpass below Sunset Boulevard. This third mural is the second one done with the students at Thomas Starr King Middle School. A contest was held earlier in the year and student artist Brandon Tu won with his design called "Dream Again". The mural was painted in October by artist Heng Leng under the supervision of King teacher Kirk Palayan.

The mural was generously funded by Joe Stalzer of CDC Housing and the Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council. We received our permits from the city and the mural will be included in the Los Angeles inventory of public art. The FHRA has been the sponsoring financial advisor on the murals from the beginning but this year we have a new benefactor, The Metro Gallery. The Metro Gallery on Hyperion has coordinated the artists and sponsored an open house to celebrate all the art work submitted for the mural.



The Myra Avenue Mural Project is guided by neighbor Peter Bedard. He is the point person for this and future projects. If you would like to donate any monies for the next mural please contact him directly at peterbedard@yahoo.com.

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A siren will do it, or any old sounds.

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their favorite perches
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some serious searches.

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patio floor.

The census consensus will
never be true
Since it overlooks species,
except me and you.

Carol Skinner

Construction... Anyone?

By Jan Hynek

When we moved into our house on Lyric Ave. seven years ago, we were immediately introduced to a neighbor's house project that had been underway for about two years and still had quite a ways to go. Last year our immediate area became a construction vortex with a totally new project next door, a virtual tear down across the street and 2 major house remodels two houses down. I almost forgot a second new house just down the street. Another tear down/house project was supposed to start this summer but we think a change in finances put that on hold for a while. Maybe the dust will have a chance to settle for a little while. I walk the hills quite often and am aware there have been several construction projects all over, but none of the areas I saw had quite the same concentration in such close proximity.

Since that time we've seen a red tagged house torn down -- it was primarily a haven for wild animals, errant Marshall High students and drug users. We knew the removal of the house was the right action after witnessing two vans with young adolescent males being thwarted from entering the premises by the pre-tear down chain link fence.

Regardless, whether construction is going on next door or near by, the challenge is to keep a sense of humor about it all while maintaining, or fostering, a sense of neighborliness. I mean, we each have our turn at making our neighbors miserable, as well as ourselves, with our own projects, so lighten up. Go to the movies, the beach, the mall. Take in a museum. Learn to appreciate the umpteenth verse of "Jingle Bells" in Spanish, in July. Leave early for work and miss those early morning construction crews—however this didn't seem to work for me since the better part of the year a worker's truck was often parked in front of our garage door. I was losing patience in a big way just as construction wound down.

Building in the hills has its challenges and landscaping in this desert, yes really, is of great interest to me. I'd like to believe people are starting to use water saving irrigation systems and drought tolerant plants

continued on page 18



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Construction continued



might not change the world but it won't hurt by taking over some New Neighbor Brownies:

Melt 2 ounces unsweetened chocolate with 1/2 cup butter. Beat in 3/4 cup sugar then 2 eggs, one at a time. Stir in 1 teaspoon vanilla. Mix 1/2 cup flour and 1/4 tsp salt, add to chocolate mixture and stir just until combined. Stir in 1/2 cup chopped nuts. Spread in buttered 8x8 pan. Bake 20-25 min at 350 degrees, don't over bake. Make a double batch using a 9x13 inch pan if you really like the people.

It's a great start, the rest is up to you.

Photos of Fall construction in the Lyric Avenue, Ronda Vista Pl. neighborhood.

since all predictions point to a much dryer environment. Besides respecting our neighbors, new construction is an opportunity to respect natural resources as well. More on the environment next time.

Suggestions-

If you're adding on, building from the ground up, changing fences, whatever; check with the City about a building permit. Even if you don't think you need one, you probably do, so call the Department of Building and Safety, 888.524.2845.

I'd be interested in hearing from people whose neighbors earned the "good neighbor nomination" by how they managed their latest project. I'd also be interested in hearing about environmental concerns or projects residents have for the Franklin Hills.

Having good neighbors involves being a good neighbor. It

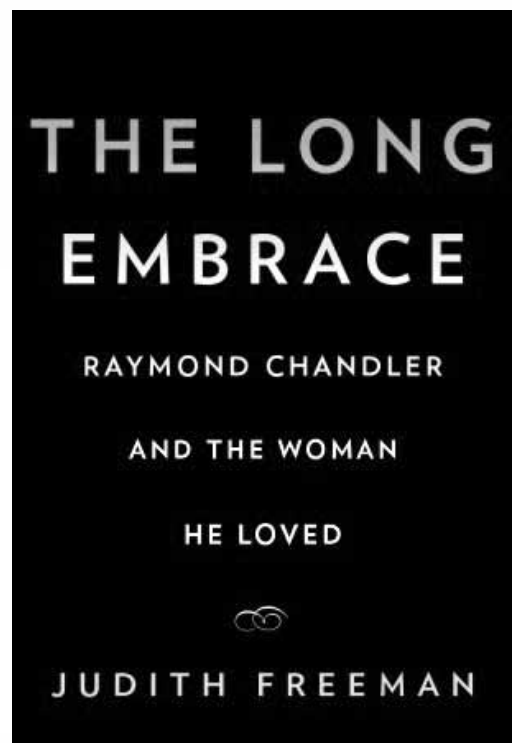


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Graffiti-Free

By Shirley Mims

Many thanks go to the many people who routinely clean off graffiti from their property in our neighborhood. Several locations in the Franklin Hills are regularly hit with graffiti. Fortunately for us, there are equally as many people taking care of the problem. Places with high visibility that are hit frequently include Baller Hardware, Hair Spectrum, Discount Tire Centers, and the Shakespeare Bridge. Usually within 48 hours, these areas are cleared of the graffiti that assaults them.



On August 30, Baller Hardware was hit hard. The entire front wall including all the signs hanging on it up to the front door, were blasted with white paint. Not wanting to paint over his brick building, Craig Cowie used a biodegradable agent and power washer to clean the walls (photo by Shirley Mims).

It is important to clean up graffiti as soon as it occurs. Leaving graffiti up only invites more. The sooner it is cleaned up the less chance there is for others to see it and want to put their own "marks" nearby and spread the problem. Those folks who must spend a fair amount of their time and resources cleaning up their property are doing a tremendous service for our neighborhood. Please thank them and any others you know who are helping to keep our neighborhood graffiti-free.

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Of Wind blown light

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Carol Skinner



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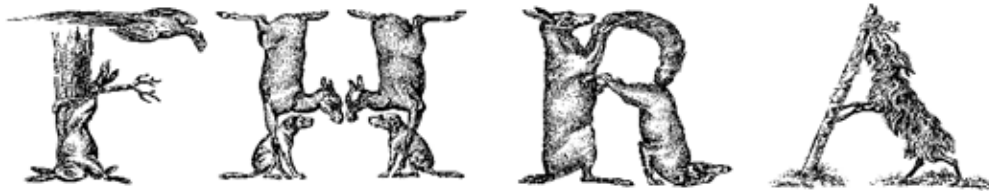
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Overview For Kids answers on page 5

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6. FORMER TV WEB AT PROSPECT/TALMADGE
7. LOCAL STREET- ____ VISTA
9. ____ FELIZ BLVD.
11. THE ____ BRIDGE
13. ____ MARSHALL H.S.
15. TRENDY "YOGURT" PINK ____
17. KIND OF TRAFFIC SIGN
18. LOS FELIZ LIBRARY LOCATED AT HILLHURST AND ____

DOWN

1. LANGUAGE USED AT L.I.L.A.
3. GRIFFITH PARK DAMAGED THIS YEAR BY WILD ____
4. WEST STREET EDGE OF FHRA
5. LOCAL WILDLIFE CRITTER
8. FORMER LYRIC AVE. RESIDENT WALT ____
10. TAGGERS' MESS
12. ____ GEORGE STREET
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Coyote Tracks -

October, 2007

by George Grace email: gmrnet1@gmrnet.com

Our neighborhood coyotes were hit with a double whammy this year. First they had to deal with the driest year in Los Angeles recorded history, and then on May 8th, a human-caused fire destroyed over 800 acres of their natural habitat in Griffith Park. A very bad year for the critters.

There is no scientific evidence, but anecdotal evidence indicates that these conditions have caused greater numbers of coyotes to venture into local neighborhoods. From June through September, FHRA's Coyote Sighting Online Survey recorded 22 sightings in 2007 vs. 12 in 2006. I have no doubt that the increase in sightings is directly related to the drought and fire in Griffith Park. Of the 22 most recent reports on the website, only one respondent indicated that they felt that the encounter was threatening, even though another respondent confronted a coyote who had apparently killed a neighbor's cat. I quote from this report below to encourage pet owners (like myself) to be aware that present conditions create danger for our pets as well as coyotes.

Here are recent sightings:

6/13/07 - 7:30 AM, single healthy looking coyote walked across Franklin Ave and sauntered down the stairs at De Loz showed no anxiety or concern about humans

7/7/07 - From the back of my house at the corner of Franklin and St. George, I observed between one and four coyotes near the bottom of the steep backyard hillside on Hollyvista.

The sightings were especially in the early morning hours

and late evening. I had assumed a pair of coyotes had established a den there, but in late evening, and using a powerful spotlight, I saw unmistakably four individual animals, all apparently full-grown and forming a pack of some sort. My initial sighting was 7/4, when I saw one or two coyotes at the above location but also in my neighbor's and my own backyards on Franklin.

7/14/07 - Sitting just off a terraced walkway leading from my home to the street; Cromwell Avenue. The coyote was hidden in light hillside brush and was startled, jumped up and ran across the street upon seeing me approach with my dog.

8/1/07. At about 7:30 am I saw a Coyote. He ran down Commonwealth from Ambrose Ave. (where I first spotted him) to Price Street. I saw he had an animal in his mouth. I didn't know if the animal was dead or alive. I stopped and yelled at the coyote until he dropped the animal. It was a cat, that was dead. I took the cat and notified the owner from the information on the cat tag. The cat lived on that block of Price Street. Cat was returned to owner. I have lived in Los Feliz for over 30 years. I've seen more coyotes in the last 2

continued on page 22



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FHRA Helps Scientists

Take a CloseLook at What's Living In Griffith Park

By George Grace

The FHRA sponsored Griffith Park Natural History Survey (GPNHS) website officially launched on October 1st, 2007. You can see it at:

www.friendsofgriffithpark.org/GPNHS/Griffith.htm

The website is a repository and distribution point for scientific information about Griffith Park, and supports GPNHS mission "To promote knowledge, appreciation, and understanding of Griffith Park wildlife and natural resources, and to provide a source of information for informed stewardship of the Park's ecosystems."

The website contains data collected from existing sources, as well as data developed by experts for the project including bird, butterfly, rare species, and flora of Griffith Park checklists.

Study results from the GPNHS funded Griffith Park Mammal/Herptile Survey are also on the website. This survey, headed by ecologists Dr. Stephanie Behar and Paul Mathewson is the first large mammal/herptile survey ever conducted in Griffith Park. After the disastrous May 8th Griffith Park fire, there was some discussion as to whether the survey should proceed as planned. The Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) decided that information from the survey would help in the recovery process. And RAP has even commissioned GPNHS scientific advisor Dan Cooper to develop and lead a wildlife management/monitoring plan that includes continuing and expanding the initial GPNHS survey.

Scientists involved in the project have sent me emails regarding the survey that shows their interest and concern for Griffith Park and what it means to Los Angeles. Here are some samples:

Martin Byhower wrote last winter: "One thing that was particularly exciting for me was finding a group of wintering Western Meadowlarks on the Toyon Landfill site. The site seems ideal for restoration to a native grassland community, which I believe is currently absent from the park (not to mention most of Southern California)." He is President of the Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon Society.

From Stephanie Spehar, Ph.D. and her colleague Paul Mathewson:

"If you want to maintain healthy populations like deer, bobcat, and mountain lions they need to be able to immigrate and disperse in and out of Griffith Park. Wildlife corridors are really the only way to maintain this connectivity... If we could establish and protect

connectivity between Griffith Park and the western part of the Santa Monica Mountains, that would be a significant step towards establishing Griffith Park as an Urban Wilderness."

From GPNHS Scientific Advisor Dan Cooper: "Phase I yielded many interesting things about the natural history of the park, virtually none of which had been studied/synthesized before." After the May 8th fire, on June 13th: "Within earshot of Roosevelt Golf Course. Plants are springing up everywhere - shrubs sprouting from the top of the rootstalk. It's amazing to watch."

I am grateful that the ecology of Griffith Park is (at long last) being seriously studied. The data collected by GPNHS will be essential to sustain the Park's ecology in the future. I solicit your support as a donor or volunteer for this ongoing effort to preserve one of Los Angeles' most precious resources, Griffith Park.

To learn about how to support the Griffith Park Natural History Survey please visit the following internet address:

www.friendsofgriffithpark.org/GPNHS/GriffithSupport.htm

Coyote Tracks continued from page 21

months (since the Griffith Park fire), then I had seen the 30 years before.

9/28/07 8:50pm--returning home from dinner on foot, we heard the coyotes before we saw them They were yipping and yapping to the sound of fire truck sirens on Hyperion...then we saw five of them on the hillside...pretty healthy looking, one had a bad leg.

We don't need to be afraid of coyotes searching for food and water. They have no choice. Once Griffith Park recovers from the fire, and we have a decent rainy season, many of them will simply return to the Park. In the meantime we need stay aware, and learn how to coexist with our "Wile E. neighbors".

Recommendation for dog walkers: I walk my dog Tootsie every morning, and occasionally encounter coyotes. Usually the coyote just walks the other way, but if he/she is curious and wants to follow us, I yell "Shoo" and throw a lemon. Works every time.

Online information about coyotes (and other urban wildlife) is available from the L.A. Animal Services website at: www.LAAnimalServices.com/aboutani_wildlife.htm.

You can also call Animal Services Wildlife Officer Greg Randall at 323-225-9453 for personal advice. And don't forget to post your coyote sightings at: www.grmnet.com/Coyotea.html.

Noir, Tree Lights & Holiday Cheer at your LOS FELIZ BRANCH LIBRARY

L.A. Noir, a new anthology of stories from local mystery writers will be featured during a panel discussion on Tuesday evening, December 11th beginning at 6:30. Editor Denice Hamilton (Los Angeles Times & Eve Diamond mysteries) and contributors, Janet Fitch (White Oleander), Naomi Hirahara (2007 Edgar Award winner), Diana Wagman, Christopher Rice, Lienna Silver, Jim Pascoe, Neal Pollack, Gary Phillips and others, will share their stories & talk about the art of anthology writing.

We will also be the starting point of the Los Feliz Village Business Improvement District's annual Holiday Festival. Singers from Lycee French American School will bring people to our corner at Hillhurst & Franklin Avenues, in the heart of the village. With the arrival of Santa and with the help of the community, the corner tree will be lit and the festival will begin. Come join your neighbors & the LFV BID merchants from 6:00-10:00 for an evening of holiday cheer.

This past quarter we've said congratulations & farewell to three of the librarians. Children's Librarian, Mary Bell & Teen Librarian, Michael Hibben were promoted and now manage their own buildings in other Los Angeles Public Library branches. Lesley Barber, the adult librarian who created the popular, Next Book series, will be moving out of state. Each of these librarians left a positive stamp on our library and the community.

Madeleine Kerr joins us as the new Children's Librarian. She brings an art background and an enthusiasm for Early Childhood Literacy. Our long standing partnership with the Barnsdall Jr. Art Center will

continue to offer free monthly art classes for children & parents in the meeting room. In addition, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) offers short series of Art Classes for the older children.

Book Discussion & Gossip groups, Chess, Quilting & Scrabble clubs, Terrific Toddler Times on Tuesdays and the monthly Friends Book Sale continue. We are also looking for adult volunteers to help us behind the scenes. Volunteering is a good thing to add to your resolutions next year and a great way to contribute to the community.

To help with your holiday entertaining & relaxation, we have new shipments of popular best sellers, classic titles, DVD's, music CD's and Books on CD for those long drives to the parties.

The library is open Mondays & Wednesdays from 10:00am -8:00pm; Tuesdays & Thursdays from 12:00noon -8:00pm; Fridays & Saturdays 10:00am - 6:00pm.

We will close at 12:30 on Monday the 24th of December and at 5:00 pm on Monday the 31st. The library will be closed all day on December 25, 2007 and January 1, 2008 so we can share the time with our families and loved-ones.

We wish all of our neighbors a safe, healthy & peaceful holiday season. We invite you to stop in to the library to see what's new, what's coming in 2008, and what we have to offer in materials, programs and good cheer.

Pearl Yonezawa, Sr. Librarian

We need your membership, but if you can't bear the thought of tearing this coupon out of Overview, go to our website: www.FranklinHills.org and click on "Join FHRA". You'll get a membership form you can print and mail.

FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 29122, LOS ANGELES, CA 90029

DATE _____

NEW RENEWAL

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I'm willing to help in: Planning /Zoning Graffiti Crime/Gangs Traffic Library- Tutoring Legal

Historic Preservation Environmental Youth Activities Public Relations ABC-TV Newsletter

Telephone tree Membership Beautification Disaster Prep other _____

DUES are \$30.00 per couple or \$15.00 per person; AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$15 \$30 \$50

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



The bridge on Myra (Sunset Blvd) was photographed in the late 1920's and FHRA member Eric Frase found it in the Auto Club of Southern California files. Not only are there no middle school students, there are no trucks, no trash, no graffiti and apparently no traffic.

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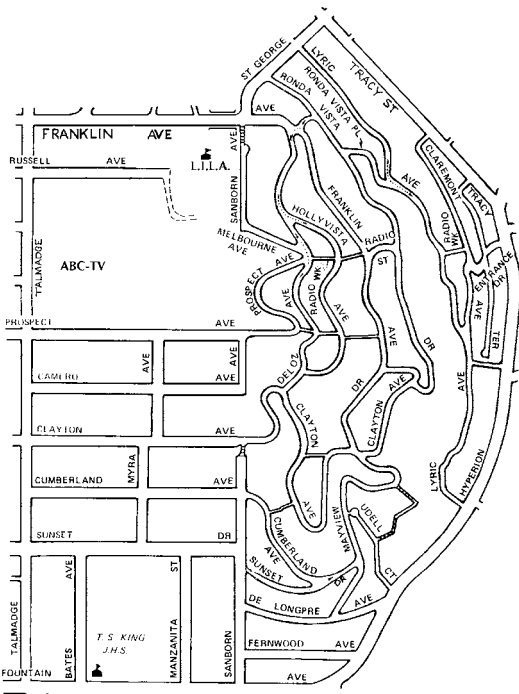
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OVERVIEW

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