



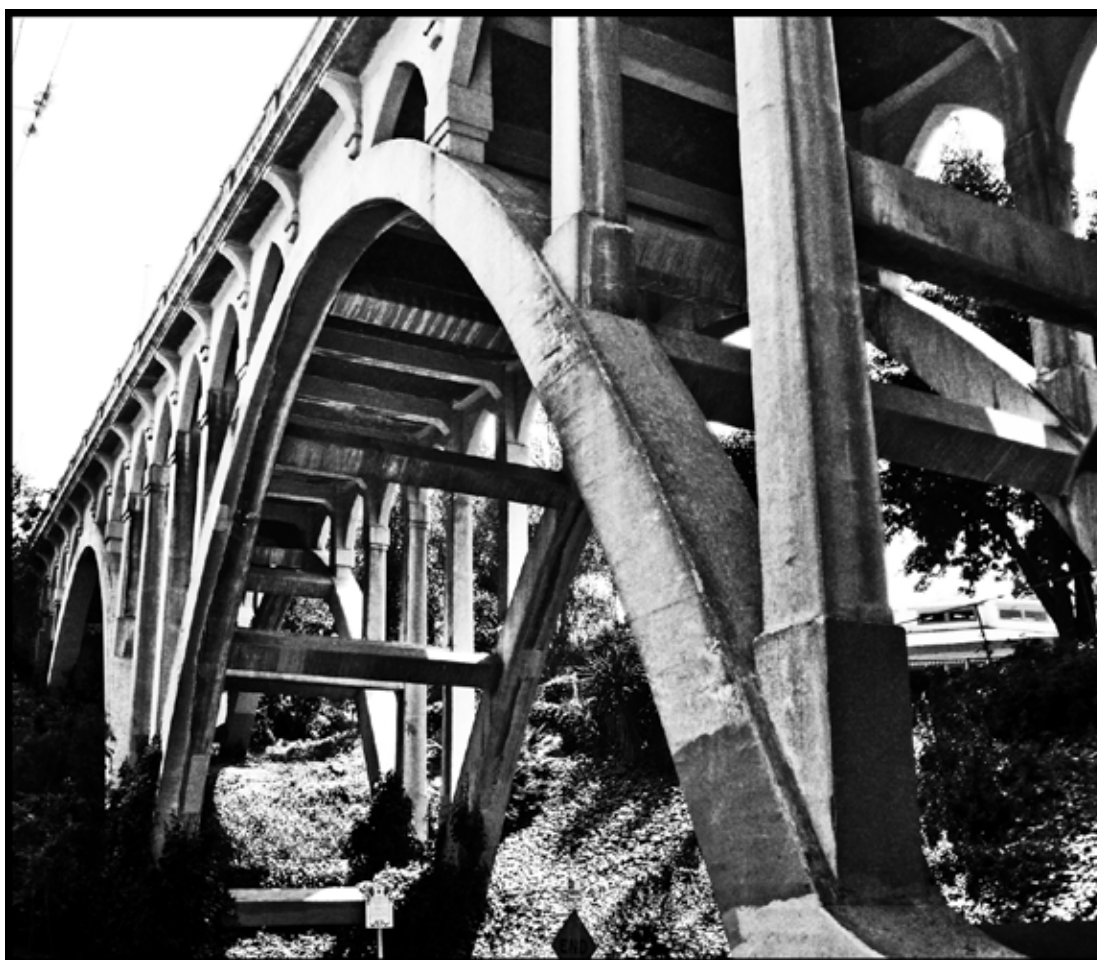
# OVERVIEW

FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

ISSUE # 35

Spring/Summer 2008

## ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 12 (see page 5)



## Our First Cover Art Contest (see page 4)

### WHAT'S INSIDE:

President's Letter . . . . .	2
Treasurer's Report . . . . .	3
Cover Contest . . . . .	4
Annual Meeting . . . . .	5
King School	
Safety Grant . . . . .	6
Parents' Union . . . . .	7

LAPD: NE Division	
Captain Murphy . . . . .	8
Farewell to Sam . . . . .	9
Median Update . . . . .	10
Vermont Triangle . . . . .	11
Big M . . . . .	12
Pot Holes . . . . .	14
Los Feliz Library . . . . .	15

Myra Ave. Mural . . . . .	16
Griffith Park . . . . .	17
Food for Thought . . . . .	18
Coyote Tracks . . . . .	19
GGPNC Elections . . . . .	20
Conserve Water . . . . .	21
Be Neighborly . . . . .	22
Bridge History . . . . .	24



## PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Once again we have had a productive year where the Franklin Hills Residents Association has continued to provide leadership in beautifying and improving our neighborhood.

We supported the development and painting of the new murals along Myra Ave. under the Sunset Blvd. bridge just south of King Middle School. Peter Bedard, a former FHRA Board member, got the City to post no parking signs under the bridge so the murals are now visible from the street and as a side benefit to help keep this area clear of illegal dumping and trash.

Several Board members and residents put up the holiday lights on the turrets at the Shakespeare Bridge this past winter. We hope you all enjoyed them and the sense of season they help engender.

Juli Kolb has taken charge of maintenance for the median island west of the Shakespeare Bridge. We plan on replacing the original irrigation system to help keep the plants on the steep slope green and flourishing. If you have expertise in irrigation systems, please call our telephone number at 323-908-6078 or email us at FHRA@FranklinHills.org to let us know of your interest in helping on this project.

Sheri Mobley, Jan Hynek, Ricardo Gomez and Charles Mustachia formed a Street Improvement Committee that is looking into pressuring the City into doing a better job of repairing the streets in our neighborhood. We have a large amount of old concrete paved streets in the Franklin Hills which have not been adequately maintained or repaired over the years since they were originally paved in the 1920's. Causing additional damage are the shoddy utility repairs when the Gas Company or the DWP have cut into these concrete streets to make repairs to their systems. A drive around the area reveals many locations where utility cuts have pavement repairs that have settled. We are pressuring the City to take responsibility to fix these problems.

The Norman Harriton Community Garden at the LILA school is still prospering years after Norm started it. The landscaping under the Shakespeare Bridge is flourishing and our neighbors who live there regularly weed and trim it. We continue to do graffiti abatement and to clean our public stairways. Ricardo Gomez continues to monitor the automobile repair and painting shops along Hyperion to force them to comply with environmental regulations. We also continue to be the voice of our neighborhood at City Hall and with the local schools and businesses to promote a safe, quiet and peaceful neighborhood.

Come out to historic Prospect Studios on Thursday June 12, 2008 (see page 5) for the annual membership meeting of the Franklin Hills Residents Association, hear what we have been doing this past year and vote on Board members for the coming year. See you then!

## FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

FHRA HOTLINE:(323)908-6078

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## Up\$ and Down\$

FHRA Treasurer's Report  
By Bruce Carroll



The FHRA had another good year in 2007 with gross income reaching \$23,512. A 62% increase over 2006 and our second highest total. The big jump was the result of large donations to the Griffith Park Wildlife Fund \$7,370, and the Myra Mural fund, \$2,500. But it was a year of ups and downs with membership dues (\$4,380) down 7% while contributions (\$1,325) were up 16%. Norman Harriton Community Garden income was \$1,055 up 26% and Median donations at \$320 were up 28%, but still only covered 20% of the maintenance costs. Income from sales of FHRA T-shirts and Historic Photos was down nearly 40%, bank interest and dividends were up 42%. Overview ad revenue was \$5,515, but unlike 2006 fell short of covering publication costs of \$5,747. So please patronize our advertisers.

Other large expenditures were \$4,659 on the Griffith Park wildlife survey (see page 17), \$1,651 on insurance to protect the FHRA and the Harriton Garden, \$1,569 on the Franklin Ave. Median landscaping, and \$1,500 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Myra Mural (see page 16). We spent \$780 on outreach expenses from postage, website, voicemail costs etc. to \$53 for holiday decorations on the Shakespeare Bridge. FHRA also donated \$675 to other organizations.

2008 has gotten off to a good start we have received a generous donation from producers of the DreamWorks romantic comedy titled "I Love You, Man" much of which was filmed around Franklin and St. George. That money has been earmarked for the median which needs major irrigation system repairs and plant replacements. And thanks to increased outreach spending, we received 60 memberships in the first 3 months compared to just seven in the same period last year. Welcome to the many new FHRA members.

O

## verview...

The American Heritage Dictionary defines the word as "a comprehensive view."

by Eric Frase



With this issue of the Franklin Hills OVERVIEW the board of directors of the FHRA, who by default, end up producing the majority of this magazine's content, have made an effort to engage other members of our community to share their voices and visions in the pages of this "comprehensive view" of the Franklin Hills.

For the cover of this issue we approached Marshall High School art teacher, Dorothy Lee, and offered the opportunity for any interested student to submit a cover image. The only guidelines issued were that the image be in black and white and that it feature a design element observed in a neighborhood building, structure or landmark. Due to the short notice of our request and the students' preoccupation with preparing portfolios and readying for other shows and exhibits at the time, we received a limited number of entries, all of which featured the Shakespeare Bridge. In thanks and recognition of their efforts, the FHRA Board of Directors awarded \$100 to Drusilla Bramlett for her image of the bridge's graceful support arches. Runner up Jordan Angulo received some Laemmle Theatres movie passes.

For the Fall/Winter issue of OVERVIEW, scheduled for publication in late November or early December 2008, we invite readers to share their favorite recipe for the holiday season. Submissions can be for beverages, appetizers, main dishes, side dishes, soups or desserts and we ask that there be only one favorite recipe sent per household. Include your name and address and submit via email to [FHRA@FranklinHills.org](mailto:FHRA@FranklinHills.org) or regular mail to FHRA, P.O. Box 29122, Los Angeles, CA 90029. We will attempt to publish as varied an assortment as possible of your holiday libations and comestibles.



**D**rusilla Bramlett, 17, is a photography student at John Marshall High School who recently accepted admission into UCLA's Design | Media Arts program. She is involved in many extra curricular activities, she enjoys working on art, photography, and fiction writing.

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Eric Frase



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# Join Your Neighbors for FHRA's 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

By Bruce Carroll

The FHRA's annual election meeting is set for Thursday evening June 12, 2008, at the Prospect Studios. The place old timers call ABC-TV...really old timers may think of it as Vitagraph, then Warner Bros. Studios. By whatever name, it's been the site of plenty of Hollywood history as well as some of our most interesting and well attended meetings.

To make sure the same is true this year we're going to do things a bit differently. First we've gone back and found the original definition of Meeting. Me + et (Latin for "and") + ING (Interesting Neighbors & Guests). So it looks like a Meeting is you and your neighbors, plus guests like Councilmember Tom LaBonge, Fire Battalion Chief Michael Thomas, our new LAPD Northeast Division Commander Captain William A. Murphy and our always informative senior lead officer Al Polehonki. (See N.E. Division, p 8)

The meeting begins with check-in at 6:30pm and a sort of social hour where you can munch on refreshments and information on the neighborhood issues that concern and interest you. We'll have topical tables with info on graffiti and noise abatement, the median and public stairways, traffic and street repair, wildlife and animal services, etc. Then starting about 7:30pm we'll hear briefly from our guest speakers who'll answer your questions. We'll hold the election for members of the FHRA Board of Directors and we'll be giving out door prizes throughout the meeting. But that's not all. We hope to have scenes from the 1928 film Noah's Ark part of which

was shot at what was then Warner Bros. studio.

Perhaps the most prominent set in the 1928 aerial photo of the studio, available from the FHRA's historic photo collection, is the façade of a giant ancient temple that was one of the sets built for Noah's Ark. The movie literally does have a cast of thousands including John Wayne, then a mere extra, who survived the giant flood scene in which three extras were drowned.

We hope the only deluge on the evening of Thursday June 12<sup>th</sup> will be an outpouring of Franklin Hills neighbors getting together for a good time. Due to Studio security you **MUST** RSVP via e-mail to: Meeting@FranklinHills.org, or via voicemail at 323-908-6078. leaving your name(s) and phone number and address. For parking enter the East Gate on Prospect between Myra and Sanborn. We hope to see you all.



How the neighborhood has changed!

## SAFE WALKING AT KING

By Mary Rodriguez

California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has awarded Thomas Starr King Middle School the "Safe Routes to Schools" Grant for \$900,000. Councilmember Tom LaBonge and Council President Eric Garcetti an-

nounced the award at a press conference at the school on April 14, 2008. The very next day two students were struck by a car on Fountain Ave. and hospitalized in serious condition pointing out the dire need for these improvements.



Mary Rodriguez

The money will implement a number of infrastructure projects around the school to make walking or biking to school safer. It will widen sidewalks on Hyperion Ave. between Sunset Blvd. & Fountain Ave., upgrade the lighting in the Myra Ave. underpass, create a "bulb-out" in front of the Korner Grill to slow traffic turning right on Myra Ave., create a sidewalk extension at the front entrance of the school, and install speed feed back signs on Fountain Ave. and Hyperion Ave. to calm traffic down and warn drivers of the school.



King Middle School



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In addition, a one-year education/encouragement program will take place at the school for students and their families. These are all very important measures that the school has needed for a long time. King applied for the "Safe Routes to Schools" grant in 2001 when the Myra Ave. underpass was a dangerous and unhealthy passage for students. At that time Senior Lead Officers Sam Salazar and Al Polehonki worked with Franklin Hills & Los Feliz Improvement Association to permanently concrete and close the stairs leading from Myra Ave. to Sunset Blvd.

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## Local Chapter of LA Parents' Union Has Big Plans for King Middle School

By Anne Richardson

King Middle School needs help!

Despite talented teachers and committed leadership, the school is in its 10<sup>th</sup> year of program improvement and its API scores continue to plummet (down to 628 in 2007 from 654 in 2006). Many in the community attribute many of King's problems to overcrowding. Yet the Magnet Program is much beloved and is really working.



Anne Richardson

Now change is afoot. The Silver Lake, Los Feliz, Echo Park Chapter of the Los Angeles Parents' Union has made King its special project. The Chapter (sometimes referred to as SELF) is developing plans to create four to five small schools (less than 500 students) on the existing King campus. The central feature of the plan is that each small school one would operate independently but would share a campus and certain facilities (including the auditorium, athletic field and cafeteria). The Chapter advocates keeping the magnet school intact, perhaps as one of the five smaller schools.

The Chapter also advocates looking to the charter-school model for inspiration but keeping King within LA Unified. The plan is being organized around six principles: first, the goal is for small, safe, personalized schools. Second, high expectations for all students. Third, site-based decision making and accountability. Fourth, parental involvement in governance and decision making. Fifth, more money to the schools, reduced class size and better teacher pay. And sixth, to make schools community centers that stay open later – until at least 5:00 p.m. daily to help keep kids in school programs and off the streets until parents get home.

The project has received initial support from Yoli Aguilar Flores, LAUSD School Boardmember and Richard Alonzo, Local District 4 Superintendent.

The parents' hope is to begin the transition in the Fall of 2009, with sixth graders going off campus to five different locations while changes are made on campus. When they return, they will return to five separate schools at the King campus. Within three years the transition would be complete.

If you are interested in becoming involved, or for more information, go to: [www.laparentsunion.org](http://www.laparentsunion.org), and click on the link for LAPU Chapters, and then on the link for the Silverlake/Los Feliz Chapter. The Parents Union is particularly looking for help collecting signatures on petitions to indicate broad community support.



# VOTE

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## Northeast Division LAPD

...says farewell to area Captain Jose Perez, recently promoted to Commander at Central Bureau. We wish him well and welcome Captain William A. Murphy who comes to us from the Training Division.

During the 20 years since he graduated from the Police Academy Capt. Murphy has been a William of all trades starting with patrol and foot beat assignments in the Harbor Area working the Gang Task Force and Special Problems Unit in the Newton Division. Promoted to Sergeant in 1993 he served in Rampart and Southeast and also in Communications, Facilities Construction and Administration Groups. He was the LAPD's Chief Information Officer before he was promoted to Lieutenant in 1998. After serving as Watch Commander at Hollenbeck he was put in charge of Professional Development, responsible for all in-service training. During this time he also was the lead instructor for the prestigious West Point Leadership Program. Murphy is a recognized expert in training development and leadership and has served on many California Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) committees.



Captain Murphy

In 2003, Murphy was assigned as the Adjutant to the Chief of Support Services where he assisted in managing all LAPD training, personnel, technology, employee relations, and behavioral science services functions. In 2004, Murphy was assigned as the Adjutant to the Director, Office of Operations where he assisted in management of all LAPD patrol, detective, and special operations personnel.

In 2005, Murphy was promoted to Captain I and assigned as the Commanding Officer, 77th Patrol Division, the largest patrol command in the LAPD and later to Newton Patrol Division. In August 2006, Murphy was promoted again, to Captain III and assigned as the Commanding Officer, Training Division.

Murphy has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from the University of Massachusetts at Boston, and a Master of Public Administration degree from Cal State Long Beach. Murphy has authored articles on law enforcement in *The Police Chief* magazine and *The Homeland Defense Journal*. He's also an adjunct professor in the Extended Education Programs at UCLA and Cal State LA. Murphy has been married to his wife Nancy for over 16 years and has three daughters, Nicole, Danielle, and Samantha.

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## Northeast Says farewell to Sam Salazar



NorthEast Division News by:  
Senior Lead Officer Al Polehonki

Sam has always led by example, demonstrating true leadership qualities, always eager to provide guidance to fellow officers and supervisors. Never willing to settle for less than quality police service. His style of policing has always been professional but with a heartfelt sincerity that has left a positive impact on everyone that he has met.

Sam Salazar began his law enforcement career in March 1974. Upon completion of his academy training he was assigned to Newton Division where he worked patrol, the special problems unit, and the Vice unit. From there it was on to felony processing at the Jail Division, then to Wilshire and Southwest where he worked Narcotics.

After 1983, Sam was nomadic no more, having transferred to Northeast Division. He specialized in the recovery of stolen property, then worked as a field training officer. In 1991, Sam promoted to Senior Lead Officer, assigned to the East Hollywood car which includes part of Franklin Hills. He retired with thirty-four years of service on March 31st, 2008.

Sam, your LAPD family wishes you and your wife Patti all the best as you enter retirement. Thank you for setting the fine example of what a Los Angeles Police Officer should be and best of luck in Sam Salazar's future endeavors.

Sam Salazar



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## Franklin Avenue Median Upgrade

BY JULI KOLB

The Franklin Avenue Median, once a tarred-over eyesore, and now a beautiful oasis of trees and flowering greenery, serves as a testament to the neighborhood commitment to our lovely community. Created nearly 13 years ago by a team of FHRA members and supporters it remains a vision to all who pass by. However on closer inspection, age and the environment have taken a toll. The irrigation system is on its last legs, the weed barrier has outlived its usefulness and many "volunteers" have taken root.

The FHRA supports the monthly gardening service but the upgrade needed is more comprehensive than we can provide. So, plans are in process to replant, refurbish, and replace all things in need. Funding will be through donations, FHRA annual dues and a large contribution from DreamWorks SKG. In case you're wondering about the DreamWorks connection, they recently completed filming on the corner of Franklin and St. George and provided compensation for the inconvenience. Funny how jaded we've become when movie production is a "hardship"



Email updates will be sent as the project moves forward and for all who possess a green thumb or simply a desire to get involved, please contact the FHRA via phone, snail or e mail.. This is truly a more-the-merrier project, where you'll see the tangible results of your efforts grow through the years.

# Digging into Geometry Revitalizing the Vermont Triangle

By Bruce Carroll

A groundbreaking celebration for the redo of the Vermont Triangle was held last month. One aspect that Franklin Hills residents can quietly celebrate is that the triangle will not be enlarged to close off the portion of Prospect Ave. west from Vermont to Hollywood Blvd. Early plans envisioned closing or greatly narrowing the street. A poll in the Overview and at the 2004 annual meeting brought a 3 to 1 negative response to those plans as a sure recipe for even worse traffic congestion. FHRA representatives made sure those planning the project heard your objections and they listened.



Councilmember Tom La-Bonge shared a shovel with FHRA President Charley Mims (right) and community leaders (l-r) including former FHRA Board Member Peter Bedard, Nyla Arslanian of the GGPNB and City

Council President Eric Garcetti also took shovels in hand to give an official kick-off to the renovation project, but the real work began with bulldozers and dirt haulers late last winter.



The new classy triangle is expected to be completed in early fall.



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**3737 Clayton Avenue \$749,000**  
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**2155 Lyric Avenue \$749,000**  
Two Story Post & Beam 3 Bed, 2 Ba. Lovely hillside views. Spacious and open living rm w/pitched wood beamed ceiling, dining area hardwood floors opens to large patio, newly remodeled kitchen w/ stainless appl. & Cesar stone counter tops opens to patio, view deck with hot tub. Central A/C. 2 car carport.

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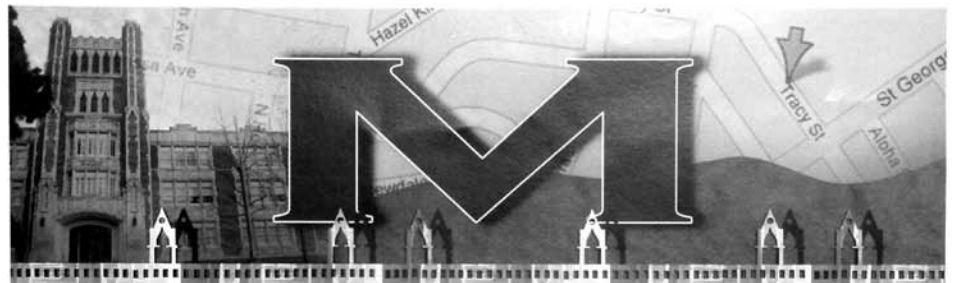
The Big Blue "M" painted on John Marshall High's retaining wall at the corner of St. George and Griffith Park Blvd. is a familiar neighborhood landmark. But change is in the cards...or more precisely the tiles.

The painted "M" is to be replaced with a mosaic "M" and the neighbors...that's you...have been asked to vote for your favorite design from among the five finalists in the student design contest.



Obviously the Big Blue "M" will be blue and while you could get out your crayons and color the designs here, but the better approach would be to go to the Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council's website, [www.GGPNC.org](http://www.GGPNC.org) and follow the link at the top of the page to see the five designs in full color, then cast your vote via e-mail to [BigBlueM@ggpnc.org](mailto:BigBlueM@ggpnc.org) or via postcard to Big Blue M, PO Box 27003, Los Angeles, CA 90027. The deadline has been extended to June 15<sup>th</sup> for Franklin Hills Residents.

Design A

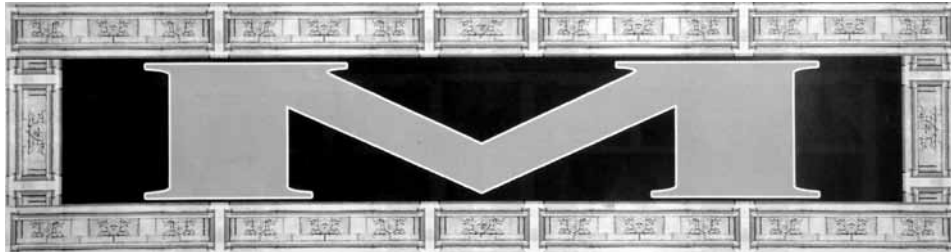


Design B





Design C



Design D



Design E



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## Open Letter to Tom LaBonge

Councilman, 4th District, Los Angeles City Council

Dear Tom:

The residents of the Franklin Hills would like to respectfully bring the following to your attention:

Our concrete and asphalt streets are in ruin...and getting worse. The Franklin Hills Residents Association (FHRA) hotline receives numerous complaints from residents about potholes, and uneven and crumbling street pavement. In fact, this matter has become so pressing, that our board has initiated a committee to specifically address street repair problems.

Our experience locally has indicated that both the Department of Water and Power and the Gas Company cause substantial damage to our streets because they do not properly repave the excavations (utility cuts) made when conducting repairs to underground utilities.

Specifically we have seen that when the DWP used its own employees to excavate area streets, it did not properly repave the excavations to the high standards imposed by the Department of Public Works. Instead, it repaved the excavations with a "pothole" type repair using poorly compacted asphalt which quickly deteriorates. Utility cuts are being made almost monthly in some areas of Franklin Hills, and the poor repair is now regularly creating new potholes, even to some of our newly repaved streets!

Interestingly, we have noted that the excavations in our neighborhood repaved by private contractors (hired by DWP) appear to restore the pavement of the excavated areas to their original condition and in accordance with the engineering standards imposed by Public Works. (Apparently, this is required of private contractors by Los Angeles Municipal Code.)

While we recognize DWP must make utility repairs, we believe that the City of Los Angeles should hold DWP to the same repaving standards imposed upon private contractors that excavate streets pursuant to City contracts.



photo by Ricardo Gomez

**DWP'S** disregard of proper repaving standards can be seen at the intersection of Myra and Clayton Avenues. Note the unevenness of the repaving and the exposed dirt. The City should not have accepted the kind of asphalt repaving done by DWP.

In early March 2008, TRIP, a national transportation research group, released a study which ranked Los Angeles as having the worst urban streets in the nation. According to the study, 65% of Los Angeles' streets need serious repair work. Our experience in the Franklin Hills lends veracity to this study

continued on page 18

## Los Feliz Library: a community branch.

Pearl Yonezawa, Senior Librarian

The official name of the library in Los Feliz is the "Los Feliz Branch of the Los Angeles Public Library". One of our old names was the "Los Feliz Community Branch Library." Although the word was dropped, community is what we are about. So, you will see us out in the community. Our librarians are at the schools; private & public, elementary, middle, senior & adult. They visit classrooms, talk to assemblies, post information in the jobs centers.

Many of the library employees live in this area and you see us walking, shopping and eating in the area. You will see us at the Los Feliz Village Street Fair on Sunday June 8<sup>th</sup> in the booth sponsored by our community partner, Skylight Books. We will be handing out library card applications. If you already have a card & remember to show it to us, you might get a special library prize. Further along in the Street Fair, you can purchase used books at the Friends of the Los Feliz Library booth sponsored by Palermo Ristorante Italiano.

You will see us from 6:00-8:00 at Yuca's on Hollywood at 4666 Hollywood Blvd. on the fourth Friday of each month for "Food for Thought: Random topics of Conversation". This current events discussion group gives neighbors a chance to meet, talk and exchange ideas and information. If you show your Los Angeles Public Library card when you order, your first beverage is free. If you don't have a card, find us in the restaurant.

We will get you an application and maybe even a card that night.

We go to neighbor events like the LA River Clean-up and the Children's Hospital opening and the dedication of the new Vermont Triangle. We do all these because the library is a part of this community.

Of course we invite you to come visit us at our events. This summer there will be two reading clubs; one for children (up to 5<sup>th</sup> grade) and one for teens (6<sup>th</sup>-12 grades). There are weekly programs and events for each age group including stories, a magic show, anime viewings, art classes and so much more. For the adults, we continue the reading program Book Group, Book Gossip and the Next Book You Read. We hope to have another author panel mid-summer. Quilting, scrabble & chess clubs, plus the free computer classes continue monthly. The popular Architecture & Beyond lecture series will begin its 5<sup>th</sup> year on September 18<sup>th</sup>.

By the way, please take a look at the beautiful quilted wall hanging of the Griffith Observatory called "Observing the Observatory" made by Shirley Jamison, from the Library Quilting Club and donated as a raffle prize for the street fair. It will hang at the library, Skylight Books and at our booth.

The library is open Mondays & Wednesdays from 10:00am -8:00pm; Tuesdays & Thursdays from 12:00noon -8:00pm; Fridays & Saturdays 10:00am - 6:00pm. If we are closed, look for us out in the community.



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# Our Myra Avenue Mural Project

by Peter Bedard MA, C.Ht.



The mural project is once again moving forward on its next mural within the Myra Avenue Underpass. If you haven't seen the three beautiful murals in the underpass be sure to stop by and take a look. With the help of CD 13 and our neighbors along Myra Avenue, we recently had no parking signs installed in the underpass. These have already cut down on the trash and graffiti in the underpass AND you can now see the murals when you drive by as they welcome you into the Franklin Hills or Silver Lake neighborhoods (they're no longer blocked by cars).

Each mural costs around \$3,500 each and is part of the city of LA's art inventory. What a great credit for a student to receive on their way to college. A standard mural of this size in the city costs over \$35,000 on average (up to \$120,000) and we are creating community art that is deeply connected to our neighborhood for far less. The Myra Avenue Mural Project is sponsored by the FHRA and it has teamed up with the Thomas Starr King Middle School along with support from the Metro Gallery on Hyperion. The students at TS King submit their designs for a mural and we, as a neighborhood, vote on those designs online, perhaps you voted in the past. This winning design is then presented to the LA Cultural Affairs Department for permitting and approval. Students and neighbors help to paint the mural under the guidance of a professional artist and the completed work is coated with an anti-graffiti surface. After all the work is done, a reception is held at the Metro Gallery to honor the students for all their hard work.

If you'd like to be part of this process or make a TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION through the FHRA (no amount is too small) please contact Peter Bedard at peterbedard@yahoo.com.

On another note, the city of Los

Angeles Department of Street Services has refused to fix a leak in the underpass that has been leaking for almost ten years now. The leak is preventing us from continuing with our last mural on the South West corner of the underpass. The Myra Avenue Mural Project and the kids at Thomas Starr King Middle School have started a petition drive to put pressure on the city to make this repair. If you'd like to send a letter encouraging the Bureau of Street Services to make those repairs and support the kids, please send a letter to one or all of the following (ask Brian and Dennis to make the repair and then send a copy of that letter to Eric Garcetti):

Brian Davis, Superintendent,  
c/o Bureau of Street Services  
2484 E. Olympic Boulevard  
Los Angeles, CA 90021  
(213) 485-5561

Dennis Weber, General Superintendent  
c/o Bureau of Street Services  
1149 S. Broadway, 4th Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90015  
(213) 847-2992

Eric Garcetti, Council Member 13th District  
5500 Hollywood Blvd., 4th Floor  
Hollywood, CA 90028  
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# Griffith Park Fire Recovery —Wildlife, and the BioBlitz

by George Grace (gmrnet1@gmrnet.com)

Hills and canyons denuded of all vegetation, dead wildlife, Park landmarks destroyed, and decimated hiking trails. In response to the crisis Griffith Park has become a focus of attention from many organizations. At last it seems, this unique asset is being given the serious attention that it deserves. Here is an update on major recovery.

## Fire recovery

The good news has included reports that hydro-mulching has successfully stabilized the soil, and that plants are emerging from the treated areas. Equestrian Trails Inc. reported a highly successful fund raiser to remove invasive non-native plants. Dan Cooper completed the Wildlife Management Plan (see below) - a landmark first. If you want to help in recovery efforts, send an email to gmrnet1@gmrnet.com.

## Griffith Park Wildlife Management Plan

After the fire, the LA Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) hired Dan Cooper to develop a wildlife recovery plan. Cooper is scientific advisor to Griffith Park Natural Survey (GPNHS), and president of Cooper Ecological Monitoring, Inc. The Plan continues work begun by GPNHS, and is a comprehensive blueprint for what needs to be done to insure sustainable wildlife populations in the Park. Cooper and the Cartifact organization have created an outstanding website and some amazing maps at <http://www.griffithparkwildlife.org/> Bird, mammal, and herptile surveys were also included and are funded until August, 2008. After August, FHRA will participate in fundraising efforts for additional studies through the FHRA wildlife fund. You can donate to ongoing wildlife studies by sending a check payable to FHRA at P.O. Box 29122, Los Angeles, CA 90029. Be sure to write Wildlife Fund in the "For" section of your check. Contributions are tax deductible.

## FHRA helps fund Bat Survey

A comprehensive survey of Griffith Park bat populations was

included in the Wildlife Plan, but only partially funded by the original contract. FHRA and the Sierra Club are providing funds to complete the project. Results will be available this summer, and posted on the GPNHS website Click to the "Support Us" page if you'd like to volunteer for GPNHS programs, such as wildlife, plant, or trail surveys. [www.friendsofgriffithpark.org/GPNHS/Griffith.htm](http://www.friendsofgriffithpark.org/GPNHS/Griffith.htm)

## The BioBlitz

During the Santa Monica Mountains BioBlitz, held in May, sponsored by National Geographic and the National Park Service biologists and volunteers scoured the hills and canyons of the Santa Monica Mountains documenting as many species as could be found. (Griffith Park anchors the eastern Santa Monicas.) FHRA's GPNHS project focused on an L.A. River aquatic animal survey, a nesting raptor survey, a search for the elusive Horned Lizard, an Owl prowl, wildflower, and butterfly searches.

Griffith Park is literally rising from the ashes. Exciting things are happening. If you want to get actively involved, send me an email. I'll send you regular updates on Griffith Park news and events.

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# Food for Thought

## Random Topics of Discussion

by Dora Herrera

After several impromptu salons which occurred at the new Yuca's on Hollywood the idea was born to create an event where locals could get together to discuss issues and topics that were on their minds. Food for Thought, held every fourth Friday, became the official name of the gathering. Now in it's fourth month, the salon draws from 12 -22 people who manage to stay long after the designated time of 6-8PM discussing a wide range of topics. Not wishing to over-formalize the event, the decision to eschew speakers and/or moderators led to our "Random Topics of Discussion" motto.

Food for Thought's next get-together is Friday, June 27 from 6-8PM. at Yuca's on Hollywood, 4666 Hollywood Blvd. (323/661-0523)

Join us if you can! Presenting your Los Angeles Public Library card gets you a free beverage. Sign-up that night if you don't have a n LAPL card.

Dora Herrera is also one of four Los Feliz women who organize the popular Architecture & Beyond lecture series at the Los Feliz Library. The other women are: Pearl Yonezawa, Lynne Jewel, and Kathryn Louyse.

## POTHOLES continued from page 14

We are submitting the details and photos of the particularly egregious utility cut repairs located in the Franklin Hills. We would like these utility cuts to be repaired properly and repaired now to prevent new potholes.

The FHRA suspects this is a systemic, city-wide problem and as taxpayers we demand accountability and correction by the City of Los Angeles. We want this ongoing utility cut repair problem to stop. It is inefficient and wastes taxpayers dollars and ultimately is unsafe for drivers and pedestrians.

When you combine the poor utility cut repair with the other street erosion issues in the Franklin Hills (lack of concrete repair, tree roots, seismic activity, etc.) you really have a mess, a potentially dangerous mess. Let's clean it up. We are ready to help you help us.

Please contact any of our committee members below to set up a meeting to determine a solution and course of action. We would ask that you please contact one of us by May 1st so that we proceed in a timely manner.

Thank you for your attention to this pressing matter  
Sincerely, The Franklin Hills Residents  
Association's Board of Directors

UPDATE: The FHRA Street Repair Committee was promptly contacted by Councilman LaBonge's office and a May 20th meeting was set-up with managers from City of Los Angeles Street Services Dept at the Councilman's office in City Hall. The results of that meeting and a street repair progress report will be included in the next Overview.

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In 1935, during America's Great Depression, the government launched the Works Progress Administration (WPA), a series of work-relief programs to aid the 30% of the workforce that was unemployed. Two of the WPA's divisions were the Federal Theatre Project and the Federal Art Project. This poster promoted one of productions presented at the Greek Theatre in Griffith Park.

## Coyote Tracks - Spring, 2008

by George Grace – email: gmrnet1@gmrnet.com



I know that what is reported through the coyote sighting website is only a drop in the bucket of actual coyote encounters in our neighborhoods. Nevertheless... since the end of September, 2007, you (and I) have recorded over 25 new coyote sightings. You can report your sighting at [www.gmrnet.com/Coyotea.html](http://www.gmrnet.com/Coyotea.html)

Since I began collecting this information in 2003, very few respondents have felt threatened by their encounter. Even so, there are occasional reports of coyotes killing neighborhood cats and dogs, prompting me to recommend that we all learn how to keep our pets out of harm's way. LA Animal Services has a great website that describes all our local wildlife, and provides valuable information to make us wildlife (and coyote) literate. You can find brochures at [www.laanimalservices.com/aboutani\\_wildlife.htm](http://www.laanimalservices.com/aboutani_wildlife.htm)

Here are quotes from our sightings:

10/18/07 - Waverly Drive. I usually see 1 to 3 together. They seem to be very wary of me and will flee, as soon as they check me out. Last week one ran up the hill with a large cat in its mouth.

11/03/07 - Cumberland between Sanborn and Myra. A coyote walked up on my patio next to my office door which was wide open. It walked past the door to a spot frequented by my cat. I yelled at it and it ran away. Approximately 1:00AM.

05-08-08 - Commonwealth Canyon across the road north of Roosevelt Golf Course. 11:30 am. Two coyotes relaxing in the little scrub next to the road that was not burned by the fire. One appeared to be a nursing mother. The other had a very scrawny tail.

Finally, here is a sighting by an observer in Griffith Park. It is a cautionary note to those of you who walk your dogs in the park - particularly if you walk them off leash!

05/25/08 - Near the merry-go-round parking lot. There were two coyotes attacking a dog. The two coyotes were on the west side of a construction fence along with the dog and the dog later escaped under the fence and down the road where he met up with his owner. The dog had minor wounds and the coyotes did not pursue it. It was about 10:30pm

We should keep in mind that times are tough for coyotes and all Griffith Park wildlife. You can volunteer to help restore the wildlife habitat that was lost in last year's fire. Send me an email, and I will forward information about how you can help.



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## GGPNC Election June 21st Another Way to Help Our Neighborhood

Unless you're a politician or a lobbyist you don't often get a chance to vote for your friends and neighbors. But you'll have that chance with the Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council Election on Saturday, June 21, 2008, from 10am to 4pm, at Our Mother of Good Counsel Church, Parish Hall...one block east of Vermont, one block south of Los Feliz at 2071 Dracena.

Ten positions on the GGPNC Board are up for election, two from each of the five geographic districts. Candidates on the ballot are: Bernadette Soter, Nyla Arslanian and Laura Howe in District "A" (all the area above Los Feliz) Peter McDonald, Wendy Michels, David Ubersax, Amy Ferguson, and Isaac Rentz in District "B" (west of Vermont). District "C" (east of Vermont to Commonwealth) has three candidates: Alexander DeOcampo, Kathryn Louyse, and Victor "Tor" Hyams, as does District "D" (north of the Franklin Hills): Thomas Wilson, Phillip Gasteier and Tomas O'Grady. That leaves District "E" (which includes all of the Franklin Hills) where GGPNC and FHRA President Charley Mims, and FHRA Treasurer Bruce Carroll are the candidates.

If you are reading this before mid-June It's not too late to become an official write-in candidate. The filing deadline is June 18th at 5pm. You'll find more info on all the candidates and the election on the [www.GGPNC.org](http://www.GGPNC.org) website.

A Big election turnout signals the folks downtown that we care about our neighborhood and are willing to make an effort to make things better. If you can't vote in person you can get a vote-by-mail application on the [www.ggpnc.org](http://www.ggpnc.org) website or by calling the city clerk at 213-978-0001. The application deadline is June 14. Every vote helps our community.



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## Living More With Less

by Jan Hynek

When we first moved to Los Angeles eight years ago, I was impressed with the flowers and lush vegetation. Soon, however, I learned about the historic pillage of water from northern California which provided the opportunity for businesses, as well as this desert, to flourish in the south. Fast forward to the present and southern California remains reliant on water from the north as much as ever. The rainfall this past winter was greater than we might have feared, so discussion of water rationing seems to be off the table, at least for now. Still, there are very simple and effective ways to use water wisely.

- Plant drought tolerant and/or local vegetation. DWP is offering seven shade trees free if you participate in a 20-minute training session on line. Most garden nurseries have low water use plants and the Theodore Payne Foundation in Sunland has a large selection of native plants.

Many lawns are over watered and do fine with less moisture. Check out the watering calculator and watering index for your lawn and garden at [www.bewaterwise.com](http://www.bewaterwise.com). It can save 750-1500 gallons per month.

If irrigation water is running down the street or standing on the sidewalk in puddles, it's not doing anything for plants. A personal shout-out to

my neighbors on Lyric Ave. (you know who you are): Adjust the sprinklers to a smaller range and don't over-water. Repair faulty irrigation systems.

- Sweep debris from walks and driveways instead of washing it away.
- Use efficient washing machines. The DWP website has a list of appliances and rebates up to \$250.
- Keep trash out of storm drains. When you go for a walk, take a trash bag and gloves and pick up as you go, especially after trash collection day. Aim isn't possible with those big trucks.
- Repair leaky faucets and toilets.
- Turn off the water when shaving or brushing teeth.
- Replace a high volume showerhead with a high efficiency unit. LADWP Customer Service Centers offer free showerheads and aerators. Check out the LADWP website for locations.

If you see excess water runoff at a neighbor's, tell them, they might not be aware. Or there is a Drought Buster Program through the LADWP to report offenders: 1.800.Dial DWP or [DroughtBusters@ladwp.com](mailto:DroughtBusters@ladwp.com). When the program started in the 1990's it decreased water usage by 34%.

Our awareness of climate changes presses all residents to respect this natural resource, regardless of where it comes from, and to put into effect new ways to conserve.

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Franklin Hills Overview: #35, Spring/ Summer 2008

## BEING NEIGHBORLY

by David Holladay

**W**hile the spirit of neighborliness was important on the frontier because neighbors were so few, it is even more important now because our neighbors are so many.

-- Lady Bird Johnson

There was a family living two doors from mine years ago, who kept a rooster in their back yard. Everything I knew about a rooster's behavior in the morning was apparently still true. A few of us joked a lot about doing the rooster in "one of these days." I used to think they were lousy neighbors. Today, I wonder what it would have been like if I had made the first move to connect with them when I moved into the area.

How well do you know your neighbors? The distractions and challenges of a large metro-area like L.A. make it near impossible to build on what my midwest upbringing teaches me about being a good neighbor. Frequently, a neighbor is the most immediate person to turn to under certain circumstances. You may find that the more you value neighborhood safety (and alleviating traditional issues like graffiti, vandalism, littering, theft, etc.), the more you value the relationships of folks that live around you. The trend away from personal contact in the neighborhood and the decrease in time families spend at home are two of the key elements that make communities ripe for crimes of opportunity, such as burglary.

Establishing friendly relations with the people in your neighborhood at the outset makes it easier to make requests of them when the need arises. When you first move into a new home, it's a good practice to introduce yourself to the neighbors on either side of you and even the ones directly across. If you feel comfortable, give them your name and your phone number in case they have an emergency and need your help, and they'll hopefully do the same. If you've lived in the area for awhile and still don't know your neighbors, it's not too late to start.

Building a community of neighbors is valuable for residents. It creates a network of communication and support among residents on the street, and ultimately improves the quality of life within the neighborhood. When residents and neighbors learn how to report suspicious activity around their homes, for example, burglary and related offenses decrease dramatically.

There are lots of layers to creating a tight-knit neighborhood. It all starts with the acknowledgment of its value. Above all, when interacting with a resident who lives near you, remember that this is your neighbor - someone you might see every day for a long time to come. Make sure you act tactfully and thoughtfully.

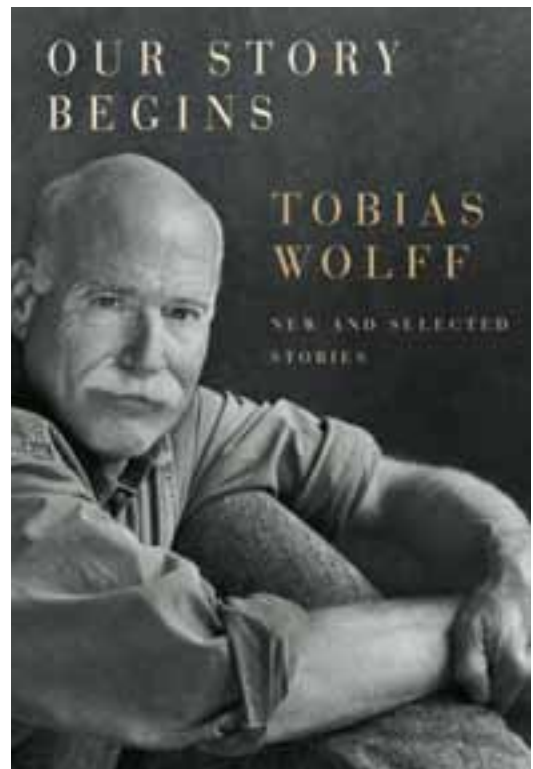
If reaching out to people in your neighborhood is a challenge, I invite you to contact the FHRA and see if we can't come up with some good ideas to get you started.

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# BATTLE OF THE BRIDGE

continued from p 24

from the Prospect Studios to the Vista Theatre that were restored to their original historic luster, and the neighborhood's iconic Shakespeare Bridge that was given a complete cosmetic and seismic makeover.

Built in 1926, the Shakespeare Bridge, originally known as the Franklin Avenue bridge, was met with opposition by LFIA two years earlier, according to coverage in the Los Angeles Times on Sept. 6, 1924:

Placing the cost of a proposed Franklin Avenue bridge over Monon Street upon adjacent property by means of an assessment district is vigorously opposed by the Los Feliz Improvement Association in a resolution sent to the Mayor, City Council, City Attorney, City Engineering Department and civic bodies of the East Hollywood High School District.

The resolution declares the proposed bridge, which would cost \$45,000, would benefit only a hill east of Monon Street and southwest of Tracy Street, and that if the improvement is to be built it should be paid for by the owners and sub-dividers of the hill. It is being proposed, it is declared, as an "aid to children going to school in the district," but such a bridge is declared to be useless as an approach to the proposed East Hollywood High School, which may be located on the block bounded by Tracy Street, Monon

Street, St. George Street and Childs Avenue {now called Griffith Park Blvd.} because of the stiff grade. There are plenty of approaches to the proposed high school site without the bridge, the resolution says.

"Any creation of an assessment district outside of the actual hill property and immediate property benefited would be manifestly unfair and unwarranted," the resolution continues. "Such bridge will be of wonderful value and great financial benefit in the exploitation of the hill property referred to, but of no material benefit to the public at large.

"This association stands ready to use all of its efforts and the weight of its prestige in this community to oppose and forestall any such scheme of general taxation without resultant benefit."

The assessment district was created and the bridge was built at a cost of approximately \$59,000. Presumably, present day members of LFIA are enjoying "resultant benefit" of the bridge as an alternative route to escape the bumper-to-bumper traffic that clogs Los Feliz Blvd. in 2008.

ASSESSING FOR BRIDGE IS FOUGHT : Los Feliz Association Hits at Franklin Avenue Project as Unnecessary. (1924, September 6). Los Angeles Times (1886-Current File), p. 2. Retrieved April 16, 2008, from ProQuest Historical Newspapers Los Angeles Times (1881 - 1986) database. (Document ID: 357717812).

We need your membership, but if you can't bear the thought of tearing the coupon below out of this issue of Overview you can go to our website: [WWW.FranklinHills.org](http://WWW.FranklinHills.org) and click on "Join FHRA" and you'll get an FHRA membership form that you can print and mail

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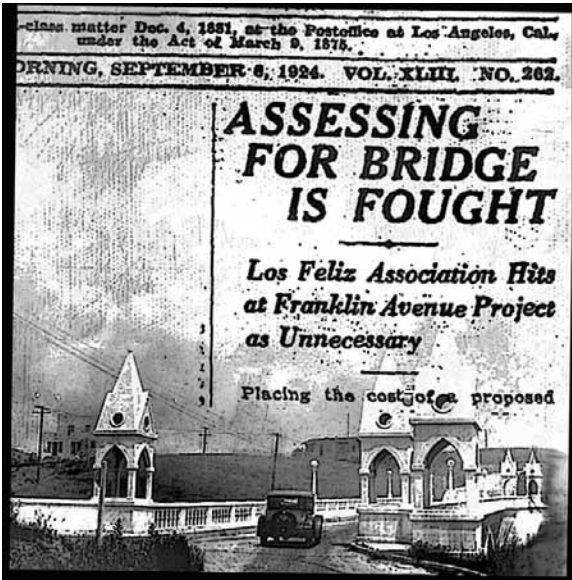
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DUES are \$30.00 per couple or \$15.00 per person; AMOUNT ENCLOSED:  \$15  \$30  \$50 larger contributions are extremely welcome. Thank you for joining FHRA! Contributions are tax deductible.

## THE BATTLE OF OUR BRIDGE

By Eric Frase



Residents of Franklin Hills who received a mailing earlier this year from the Los Feliz Improvement Association (LFIA) may have been surprised to learn that the 90-some-year-old homeowners group based “north of the boulevard” has now deemed our neighborhood worthy of being included within their membership boundaries. Interestingly, it took nearly three quarters of a century for LFIA to embrace the working-class neighborhood located, not on the “wrong side of the tracks”, but, on the wrong side of Franklin. As the 2000 millennium came and went, our neighbors to the north took note of the numerous bungalows that were refurbished by homeowners and realtors, the Franklin Avenue median that was transformed from worn asphalt to verdant landscape by local residents, commercial properties ranging

continued on page 23



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### OVERVIEW

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