



OVERVIEW

Local News and Information for the Franklin Hills

ISSUE #37

SPRING/SUMMER 2009

FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION



Hoover Walk Mural Dedication - Students from Thomas Starr King Middle School line the stairway for a celebratory photo led by Councilmember Tom LaBonge, Project coordinator Mary Francis Smith-Reynolds with daughter Graycie, Artist Ricardo Mendoza who created "Fluid City Rising" and Michael Espinoza, city Project Manager. (see page 14)

ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 20 (see page 4)

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President's Comments

As we approach our next annual meeting which will be held Saturday June 20, 2009 starting at 11:00 am (with lunch to follow hosted by LILA,) we can look back on twenty years of FHRA activities with pride! In 1989 the FHRA was formed by a concerned group of local residents who wanted an organization to more effectively

fight the expansion plans of ABC. On the drawing boards were plans to build high rise buildings on their lot at Talmadge and Prospect. We won that battle and have since transformed the FHRA into an active force for beautifying and improving our wonderful neighborhood.

Projects successfully completed by the FHRA over the last twenty years include: stripping the asphalt from the median island westerly of the Shakespeare Bridge and installing an irrigation system and drought tolerant plants; cleaning up the public stairways in the Franklin Hills and publishing a map of them to make it easier to walk our neighborhood; traffic calming on Franklin Avenue; supporting murals throughout our neighborhood and in nearby areas (the Hoover mural, the Talmadge mural, the Myra murals;) providing welcoming baskets to new residents and later welcoming cards; promoting crime watches; graffiti removal; noise abatement; support of Griffith Park and its flora and fauna; supporting our Senior Lead Officers in the Los Angeles Police Department; creating the Norman Harriton Community Garden; getting a new guard rail constructed along the Franklin median island; supporting our local schools; successfully opposing breaking apart our neighborhood through the ill fated Hollywood Secession vote; and generally being a neighborhood! All of activities have been reported on our web site and in the *Overview* to keep us thinking as a neighborhood.

This year we started a team for the Griffith Park Relay for Life event held in early June at the Mulholland Fountain. We worked with LILA to create a good relationship between our neighborhood and the school. We finally saw the completion of the Hoover Mural which former FHRA Board member Mary Francis Smith-Reynolds pushed through to completion. We continued to monitor and express our concerns about the late night trucking and other noises emanating from Prospect Studios. And we have started to plan for the replacement of the irrigation system for the Franklin Avenue median island.

Please come to our twenty-first annual meeting at LILA to help us celebrate the past and to plan for the future.

FRANKLIN HILLS Residents Association

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Email Address:
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Franklin Facts Following The Fiscal Fizzle

FHRA Treasurer's Report
By Bruce Carroll



In 2008 FHRA shared some of the economy's troubles with income down to \$17,195, a 27% drop in overall revenue compared to 2007. Membership dues declined only 6% to \$4,120, Norman Harriton Community Garden income and contributions to the median landscaping fund each slipped 17%, bank interest and dividends diminished by 29%, but the biggest decreases came in Overview advertising revenue down 33% and donations to the Griffith Park Wildlife Fund, which while still substantial at \$3,250, were down 55% from a record year of 2007.

On the increase were individual contributions, up over 30%. A **BIG THANKS** to all of you who sent more than your membership dues. But the star performer in revenue increase was contributions from film production companies, at \$3,200, four times the amount donated in 2007. The biggest bucks came from the film "I Love You Man" which was released earlier this year. Perhaps most frequently seen was a quick shot including the Shakespeare Bridge in a Carl's Jr. commercial that played often, including the Super Bowl.

Overall expenses at \$15,325 were down 9% from 2007 so that we ended the year with a net gain of just under \$1,900. Our biggest expense was, \$4,959 for the Overview, 75% of which was covered by the ads you see. Please patronize our advertisers whose support for the community helps us all.

Next down the expense list were membership mailings- website-voicemail at \$2,281, Median maintenance at \$1,627, Griffith Park Natural History fund \$1,447, insurance \$1,409, Mural projects \$1,315, Donations to Marshall High's Decathlon Team, student awards and civic organization \$875, and \$750 for the neighborhood security patrol pilot program undertaken last summer after a sharp increase in burglaries and vandalism. Holiday bridge decorations and historic photos round out the list at \$225.

2009 has gotten off to a slow start with membership at press time well below last year, but there's still plenty of time to correct that. Most of FHRA's memberships come around the time of our annual meeting. This year on June 20th

21st Annual Meeting Franklin Hills Residents Association MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS - JOIN US FOR LUNCH

When: Saturday, June 20th
Time: 11:00 a.m. -Member Lunch to Follow
Where: Lycée International of Los Angeles
 4155 Russell Avenue
 Los Angeles, CA 90027.
 Phone (323) 665-4526

(Below Shakespeare Bridge - Ample Parking)

Twenty years ago the FHRA was born. It was 1989 and the price of gas was \$0.97, rent averaged \$400 a month and the DOW Jones average was below 2800 points. Times have changed, yet many things remain the same. The quaint inviting feeling of the Franklin Hills still draws people of all walks.

And through it all the FHRA has been the voice of our community. The FHRA communicates our concerns to local government and provides an outlet for residents to seek assistance with local issues. Moreover, the FHRA maintains the Franklin Ave. median, supports the community garden, provides funds to beautify the neighborhood, publishes the Overview, tackles graffiti, works to keep noise under control, and hangs lights on the bridge during the holidays that everyone enjoys. And that's just the tip of the iceberg. Come to the Annual Meeting and become part of the voice of Franklin Hills.

The annual meeting will be held on Saturday, June 4th, 11:00am, at Lycée International of Los Angeles (LILA French School). Bring your family and friends to this beautiful location;

spread over 6 1/2 acres of greenery below the famous Shakespeare Bridge. Designed by renowned architect John Lautner, the school is classified as an historic monument. Its unusual design provides for airy classrooms, an imposing library, where the FHRA annual meeting will be held, all this in a park like setting.

Check in is at 10:30 a.m. Enjoy a brief social time while enjoying the campus. Meet your FHRA board members and find out what is happening in the neighborhood at our information tables covering the Franklin Avenue median, wildlife and animal services, graffiti and noise abatement, stairways and street repair.

For the first time there will be supervised playground activities for children, refreshments for everyone and after the meeting a catered lunch for members (generously sponsored by LILA).

They'll be guest speakers including Councilman Tom Labonge, Northeast Station LAPD Captain William Murphy and representatives from the Fire department. In addition, there will be an election for 6 board members. Please review your ballot and cast your vote at the meeting.

This is a great way to let your voice be heard in your own neighborhood and through your participation you will make a difference in your community.

Lunch RSVP's are very helpful, but not required, please call 323-908-6078.

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Griffith Park Natural History Survey Provides Crucial Data

by George Grace

January 27th was a watershed day for Griffith Park. The City Council voted unanimously to designate ALL of Griffith Park as Historic-Cultural Monument #942. This event is a milestone in the FHRA supported Griffith Park Natural History Survey's goal to sustain and preserve the natural environment in Griffith Park. Congratulations and thanks to everyone who helped make this possible.

The Monument designation expands protection of the Park's man-made features (such as the Observatory and Greek Theater) to include the Park's wilderness areas, hiking/equestrian trails, and other natural features such as Bee Rock. Preserving the ecology of Griffith Park will require on-going scientific study – the mission of GPNHS.

Volunteers and scientific advisor Dan Cooper are just finishing a follow-up to the GPNHS

2007 herptile survey of the Park. Dan reports "we've some amazing discoveries of reptiles/amphibians in the park and surrounding open space, notably the coast horned lizard last month (only population left in eastern Santa Monica Mountains)". The photo shows one of the rare horned lizards found in Griffith Park. When completed, a report of the findings will be posted on the GPNHS website. If you haven't been to the website lately, visit www.friendsof-griffithpark.org and click on "Griffith Park's first Natural History Survey."



*Rare Horned Lizard found in Griffith Park
Photo Courtesy of Gerry Hans*

There are several new features that are worth a look, including a new Google map of the Park in the "Maps" section. Other additions include the February, 2009 Bat Survey report in the "Species info" section under "Other Wildlife". Eight species of bats were recorded, including the Western Red Bat, a California Species of Special Concern. The study suggests that Griffith Park is important for sensitive/declining bat species.

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Something's Missing in the Neighborhood

By Bruce Carroll

What do you do when an old helpful neighbor suddenly disappears. Franklin Hills residents started asking around when they saw an empty spot at Franklin and Radio Walk where the blue Post Office collection box used to live. It was about 11am on February 17, 2009, when that box was unbolted and hoisted into a truck with about a dozen of its close relatives.

When his old blue friend went missing Franklin Ave. resident Mark Stevens discovered that nationally to cut costs the USPS has been removing under utilized boxes, ones that collect fewer than 25 letters. He looked around for other boxes and soon they were gone too, like ones by Marshall High and Franklin Elementary Schools, and in commercial areas: Hyperion at Griffith Park Bl.

Seeking answers, the musician turned postal detective, spoke to our City Councilmember Tom LaBonge who said he'd received lots of complaints and suggested contacting our Congresswoman Diane Watson. That turned into a dead end when he got form letters and what he described as "rude, condescending and uncaring" responses from many calls to her local office indicating they had more important problems to deal with. Stevens contacted postal headquarters for our area and asked, "Where is there a mailbox in

90027?" The answer was "we can't tell you where there are any."

WARNING: Some people suggest putting outgoing mail in your home mail slot for the carrier to pick-up. That's a very bad idea as the FHRA has had multiple reports of mail theft in our area in the past few months.

While we all recall that it was Ben Franklin who founded the US Post Office, his wisdom does not appear to have passed down to 90027. On May 11th, the day postage rates went up two cents, our local post office ran out of one and two cent stamps and by 3:30pm had nearly run out of clerks with just one behind the counter to help the 30+ people in line. Maybe it's bad management and not just what LA Postmaster Mark Anderson calls "electronic diversion" that's putting the PO in financial trouble.

MISSING

CONTACT FHRA IF YOU HAVE
INFORMATION ABOUT

MAIL BOX

Missing From: Convenient Places in 90027

Date Missing: Winter/Spring 2009

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(first boxes 1858)

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Complexion: Blue





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An informal survey by the FHRA found just four remaining boxes in all of 90027, other than those at the Post Office. Check www.FranklinHills.org/mailboxes.html and please let us know if you find any others. Perhaps we could save them by getting them declared historic monuments like the Shakespeare Bridge and Griffith Park.

Coyote Tracks – Spring, 2009 by George Grace

email: gmrnet1@gmrnet.com

I recently talked to City Wildlife Officer Greg Randall, and he tells me that there have been fewer coyote calls this year compared to 2007 and 2008. I think I know why. If you have been to Griffith Park recently, you have seen its remarkable recovery from the May, 2007 fire that burned more than 1,000 acres. Habitat has made a comeback along with the wildlife that depends on it, including coyotes.

Coyotes will eat virtually anything, but the Griffith Park recovery has produced an abundance of their preferred diet, rodents and fruit. Wildlife Officer Randall also said not to be surprised to see coyote families roaming the Park. It's that time of year. Though there are many solitary coyotes in the Park, and our neighborhoods, there are also coyote families.

You might see Mom and Pop Coyote, accompanied by their young pups, and occasionally with other siblings (Please report sightings at our website). If you do see a coyote, follow the lead of the Park Rangers. Yell at them, and shoo them away. Even if habituated to human handouts this will work. And, please don't try to feed them. It is against the law (L.A.M.C. 53.06.5), and hurts both humans and coyotes.

Our latest postings include 12 from Griffith Park, 5 from Franklin Hills, and 6 from areas that don't abut the Park.

(Continued to *Latest Coyote Sightings* on Page 8)



Photo Courtesy of NPS Photos

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LATEST COYOTE SIGHTINGS (HIGHLIGHTS):

12/05/08 – Franklin Ave. at Hollyvista. An adult coyote moved from the street into the shrubbery as my car approached. This is the third time in the past few months that I've seen a coyote in this precise location.

2/02/09 – At the Old Zoo picnic area, around 2:30PM – Several coyotes were wandering around, and one came within feet. Although we had gotten in the car by then, in the parking lot below the rest-rooms located up the path from Old Zoo Park. They seemed comfortable around humans. There were small dogs on leashes in the area and we warned the owners who seemed unaware of the coyotes presence. They were scattered about and two remained up on the hill looking on us.

One last sighting, this one seems to know that as many as 50% of urban coyote mortality is from auto collisions.

04/01/09 - the intersection of Los Feliz Blvd. and Edgemont St. 10PM. The single coyote ran across Los Feliz Blvd. from north to south at Edgemont. He crossed on the green light! Smart guy!

Have you seen a coyote in the area?

Please report your sighting at:
<http://www.gmrnet.com/Coyotea.html>.
Since the end of September 2008, you (and I) have reported 23 new coyote sightings.

LA Animal Services has a website of our local wildlife, and provides invaluable wildlife info. Download brochures at:
http://www.laanimalservices.com/about/ani_wildlife.htm



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SCHOOL TRAFFIC UPDATE By Councilmember Tom LaBonge

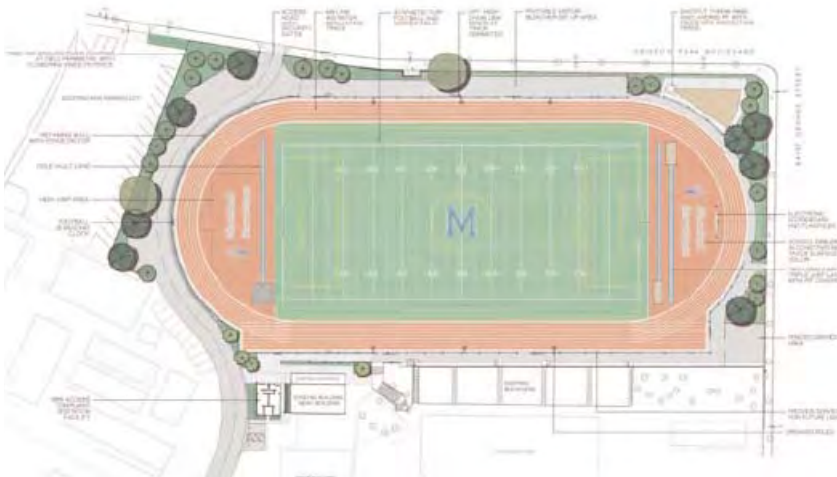
Franklin Avenue Elementary School's parents will be happy to hear that the street sweeping signs on the school side of the street have been changed to better coordinate with dismissal time. They will now read, Street Sweeping No Parking – Wednesdays between 12:00 noon and 2:00 p.m. instead of 3:00 p.m. This allows an extra hour for parents to park, and pick up their children. Changing the signs was no easy feat but Council District 4 worked with the Bureau of Street Services to accommodate the parent's request. Parents must still remember to be careful on Tuesdays during the 1:30p early dismissal.

On April 16, 2009, Los Angeles Unified School District Superintendent Ramon Cortines,

School Board Vice-President Yolie Flores Aguilar and I broke ground on the long-awaited new track and field for John Marshall High School. I've been wanting to make this happen for 40 years, ever since I played center for the Marshall Barristers football team. Principal Dan Harrison, Coach Andy Moran, Marshall Alumni Joanne Erdos, LFIA President Marian Dodge and several Marshall students were on hand for the ground-breaking ceremony. Since much of the teachers' parking is unavailable during construction, my staff worked with LADOT and Assistant Principal Erick Juarez to temporarily change the street parking signs to accommodate the teacher's parking needs. The track and field will be finished in time for fall football season.



Left to Right: Marshall student, Vice-Pres. Yolie Flores Aguilar, 2 Marshall students, Principal Dan Harrison, Councilman Tom LaBonge, LAUSD Deputy Chief Executive for Existing Facilities Bruce Kendall, JMHS Alumni Joane Erdos, and Coach Andy Moran.



Plan for the new John Marshall High School track and field.

A Bright Idea Dims Crime

By Bruce Carroll

FHRA alerts are e-mail messages we send out after receiving reports of crime or other problems in the neighborhood. Last fall neighbors on Myra went beyond reporting a violent crime, they had a bright idea to make their area safer.

“On Myra we need some expedited help from FHRA. You may recall that on Oct 7, Tues night, two of my neighbors were attacked during an attempted robbery. The location is across the street from 1570 Myra Avenue, a very dark area. We have experienced frequent problems in this dark area. My neighbor, and I have been closely monitoring the location. During the mornings we have found drug paraphernalia on the parkway and on the street.”

That neighbor, an LAPD detective e-mailed FHRA, *“Prior to this most recent and heinous incident, several residents, including myself, have been the victim of burglaries from vehicles, and another neighbor’s home was burglarized last summer. The addition of a little additional lighting on this block could prove to be a saving grace to this block.”*

In response to those calls for help FHRA wrote to Councilmember LaBonge’s office requesting additional lighting for the area and brought the matter to the Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council which also promptly sent a similar request.

Early this year three lights were installed on existing DWP utility poles. This kind of lighting is much faster and far less expensive to install than the traditional street lights which are fed by underground power lines and for which area residents must pay through special assessments on their property tax bills.

Now a once worried neighbor has written: *“These lights have completely eliminated the late night loitering problem near Myra and Cumberland. Cars would park near Clayton and Myra, usually on the Myra side, occupants would dine on takeout, have a few beers, have sex (usually female hookers) then depart leaving their refuse behind. No longer after being awoken, do I have to shine a light down there to scatter people. Also, the drug dealers no longer park there at night either.”*

Thanks to those who brought the problem to our attention and to Councilmember LaBonge’s staff and the DWP for turning a bright idea into a brighter, safer street.

NOTE- If you’d like to be on the *FHRA* alert list, just e-mail us at: FHRA@FranklinHills.org and request to subscribe.



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Griffith Park Natural History Survey - Continued from Page 4

A new report on the effects of the May, 2007 fire on bird populations is available in The "Birds" section of "Species info", and is the first published survey birds in Griffith Park. Author, Dan Cooper, states that continuing study "is essential to understand which species might be vulnerable to disturbance and local extinctions."

GNHS is currently seeking funds for a follow-up bat survey this fall, and a plant study next year. As each study is completed and published, GNHS is helping to fill the gaps in knowledge of Griffith Park's natural environment and its wildlife.

You can help. GNHS needs volunteers for future flora and fauna surveys. We're seeking help for fall and winter bird surveys now. If you would like to participate, or make a tax deductible donation to the FHRA Wildlife Fund please contact me at gmrnet1@gmrnet.com and help keep Griffith Park the wild, natural, wonderful place it is now.

il Capriccio
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1757 N Vermont Ave 323.682.5900 Lunch Mon-Fri 11am-2pm Dinner Sun-Thurs 5pm-10pm Fri-Sat 5pm-11pm

New Campus Director For Lycée International of Los Angeles (LILA)

By Deborah Stromberg

Lycée International of Los Angeles (LILA) is proud to announce the appointment of its new

Campus Director Philippe Vanhile who is a certified French teacher and also holds a degree as a teacher trainer. He has been in the United States since 1998 working within the French-American School Network. He has extensive knowledge of both systems, understands the workings of a private immersion school and is fluent in both French and English. He is intimately familiar with LILA, knows the entire teaching staff and most of our administrators.

For the past two years, Philippe has been the regional trainer provided to LILA by the Mission

Laique, a French educational entity with over 100 member schools worldwide and with which LILA has been affiliated since its inception.



Campus Director Philippe Vanhile

(Continued to New Campus Director Page 15)

Box Brothers Goes Hollywood



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BOX BROTHERS

A BIG Difference from BIG Sunday* *even though it was on Saturday

by Bruce Carroll



Before



After

A BIG THANKS to all the hard working volunteers from the LILA School and "Voluntears" from Disney's Prospect Studios who cleaned up Radio Walk from Hollyvista down to Deloz. In three hours on May 2nd more than a dozen sweepers, scrapers, clippers and pruners filled more than 60 large plastic bags, leaving what had been a nearly impassable path a clean place for a pleasant stroll. Many Franklin Hills neighbors stopped to offer thanks saying they had been avoiding the stairway because of its unkempt condition.

If you enjoy walking our stairways you can find a map with a route so you don't miss a single step by going to www.FranklinHills.org and clicking on "Public Stairways" link. Let us know if you see stairways in need of a good cleaning so we can work together to keep the stairways in good shape.

Thank you,
Franklin Hills Residents Association

Hoover Walk Mural is Born

By Mary Frances Smith-Reynolds

This is not the first article I have written about the Hoover Walk Mural site for the OVERVIEW, but it is certainly the happiest one.

The Mural is Done

Artist Ricardo Mendoza titled it, "Fluid City Rising." The bold artwork covers the three walls of the Hoover Walk, at the juncture of North Hoover Street and Prospect Avenue. The mural project was the centerpiece of an entire make-over, which also included landscaping, structural improvements to sidewalks, steps, railings, and walls; and multiple clean-up efforts.

This six-year community beautification effort, supported from Day One by the Franklin Hills Residents Association, was dedicated to the community in a ceremony hosted by District 4 Councilmember Tom LaBonge - another supporter since the start - on March 26, 2009. The sun and the mood sparkled that morning as approximately 100 people gathered to cheer on the completion of the project and to hear from those who helped to make it happen.

I realized at that ceremony what a unifying backdrop the mural creates for such gatherings. Since then I have also witnessed what a powerful draw it is for those who want simply to stand or sit in solitude and take in art. The site, once a dumping ground for garbage and bulky items and a magnet for graffiti and other crime, has been transformed. It is a destination now for those who want to experience beauty and peace as they eat their lunches, walk to school, jog through the neighborhood, or take photos as the shadows change on the colorful images.

But, like a garden or any other living thing, this place needs ongoing care to stay healthy and strong. Trash still gathers, and some graffiti has appeared on the adjacent walls. But friends are already helping to preserve the beauty of the spot, and prevent it from backsliding: Council District 4 recently installed two public trash cans and helps with periodic clean-ups; the immediate neighbors are regularly sweeping and picking up trash; and Farm Feliz, a local group which helped hugely with landscaping, is now assisting with plant maintenance. There are others, too, who are jumping in as stewards and caretakers. Each one of you is appreciated. (See *Hoover Walk Mural* Page 22).



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New Campus Director LILA

(Continued from page 12)

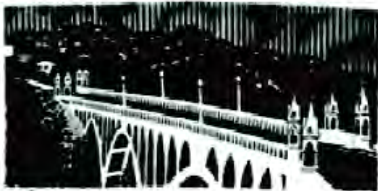
This commitment on the part of Mission Laïque paved the way for the creation of a very strong connection with Philippe and from his very first hands-on, teacher training workshop, LILA adapted and implemented much of what he shared with the staff. His intervention was a huge success and Philippe Vanhille was immediately embraced by the LILA team. During the past couple of years, Philippe has come back several times for workshops. Last year he participated in LILA's 2nd Annual Teachers' Retreat at Pine Summit and was also an active participant in the strategic planning seminar which took place in October 2008.

Philippe has also worked on the development and cultivation of our teacher training program. Philippe understands and has a feeling for the LILA school culture. As an educator, he has a clear passion for education and a very positive outlook regarding students and their ability to learn.

We are very happy and fortunate to finally be able to count him as one of the LILA team. We are all thrilled that Philippe has enthusiastically accepted our invitation to be the new Campus Director.

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LAPD UPDATE COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

BY SENIOR LEAD OFFICER AL POLEHONKI

E-Policing is our way of bringing community policing to the Internet. The E-Policing program enables Senior Lead Officers, Area Captains, and detectives to e-mail newsletters, crime trends and other important information to you. It's easy to sign up, just go to LAPDONLINE.ORG and click on the link for E-Policing.

Since its release, 24,864 community members have signed up for E-Policing, 2168 of those work or reside in the Northeast area. Don't let others miss out on important crime information and updates. Encourage them to sign up.

The Los Angeles Police Department has developed two new anonymous tip services for use by the public.

Text –a-tip Service:

User types "LAPD" plus their tip on their cell phone or PDA and texts it to "CRIMES" (274637). The text message is encrypted and an alias is generated, masking the identity of the sender from the police. The police have no way of determining the user's identity.

New Web Tip link:

Users go to LAPDONLINE.ORG and follow the link for "Anonymous Web Tips."

The user then fills in a form and submits it via the Internet. The tip goes through a secure sever where, again the identity of the sender is masked from the detectives receiving the web tip.

Neighborhood Watch is one of the most effective and least costly answers to crime. Each watch group helps establish a true partnership between the community and its police department. Once established, issues that affect the community can be discussed and various crime reduction strategies can be explored. Knowing what to look for and how to report activity that seems suspicious will help make your neighborhood safer.

Additional information on any of these items can be found on the official web site of the LAPD at:
WWW.LAPDONLINE.ORG

Lastly, you can help reduce vehicle burglaries by removing items of value when you park. I-Pods, GPS, Cellular Telephones, and Laptop Computers are the items that are most frequently stolen.

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Letter to The Editor: Noise at Prospect Studios

By: James McEwen

Prospect Studios has been a fixture in this part of Los Angeles since the 1920's when blockbuster movies of the day filmed on the studio backlot. Over the years – as the neighborhood grew up on the surrounding streets, the studio changed focus from films to news programs to audience shows shot on stage (sitcoms or game shows). Over the past four or five years Prospect Studios has changed again. Now they serve as home base to hour-long dramas that use both stage space on the lot and travel to locations around the city, often at night.

This change in purpose has greatly increased the amount of truck activity and noise in the neighborhood and in the studio's parking lots. When the shows go out on location they take multiple trucks, trailers and equipment that all come back to the studio after filming has been completed – often at 3 or 4 in the morning. During the filming season office trailers parked in the lower lot run air conditionings around the clock and powerful lights often through the night. Un-baffled studio generators click on and off. There have even been several shoots (explosions, lights, crew, stunts and all) in the studio parking areas. This season's filming has ended, so for the next few months there will likely be less activity and therefore less noise at the studios.

Over the past couple years several concerned citizens have tried to work with Prospect Studio management and have brought the issue to the attention of Councilman LaBonge's office. Our current efforts are focusing on the zoning and department of transportation regulations (with the assistance of the city attorney for the neighborhood) to determine what is an enforceable issue and which agency should enforce it. We would like to compile comments, concerns, and details of specific noise related incidents from other neighbors to present at these future meetings.



To leave a message about your experience with Prospect Studios (good or bad) please call (323) 285-5150



Photos: Prospect Studios parking lots both empty (above) and full (right) provided by James McKewen

GGPNC Seeking Some Bright New Faces, Minds & Hands

By Bruce Carroll

This summer the Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council will be looking for a few (well actually 9) really good men and women to fill positions on the GGPNC's governing board. The GGPNC is an official city pipeline from our neighborhoods down to the political maze of City Hall. With a small minority of GGPNC Board members recently seeming intent on changing the character of the organization from one of neighborly cooperation into one of political confrontation, this year's selection of the nine appointed board members could be crucial to keeping on track.

In the past year the GGPNC has used its funds to improve local schools, its hands to clean up the LA river and its words to rally support for protecting all of Griffith Park as the city's 942nd Historic Cultural Monument. In addition the GGPNC remains the ongoing watchdog working to prevent: inappropriate use of the park, more traffic and over development. Alas, one board member elected last year recently told a city zoning administrator that in his vision of the neighborhood he'd "like to see more density."

(Continued to GGPNC on Page 20)

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LET'S ALL SAVE WATER & \$\$
By Bruce Carroll

On June 1, 2009, strict water use restrictions went into effect in Los Angeles. The amount you are allowed to use goes down and not surprisingly the price goes up, but with conservation you can save on both water and dollars.

We hope the quick guide below will help Franklin Hills residents figure out how much Tier 1 (less expensive) water you are allowed under the DWP's 15% reduction in water allocations. For single family residences the 15% cut is not based on your past use, but on the size of your lot. If you don't want to drag out your tape measure, you can find your lot size at: <http://zimas.lacity.org/search.asp> by entering your address and clicking on "report." Water is billed in units of 100 cubic feet (HCF) which is 748 gallons.

The cost of each 100HCF starting July 1, will be:

\$3.422 for Tier 1 and \$5.480 for Tier 2

an extra cost of \$2.06 per HCF for Tier 2.

(In June water rates are 2.983 for Tier 1 and \$5.190 for Tier 2)

YOUR LOT SIZE	JUNE - OCTOBER Tier 1 Allowance	NOVEMBER - MAY Tier 1 Allowance
Under 7,500 sq. ft.	31 HCF	24 HCF
7,500 - 10,999 sq. ft.	44 HCF	29 HCF
11,000 - 17,499 sq. ft.	68 HCF	43 HCF
17,500 - 43,559 sq. ft.	87 HCF	49 HCF
43,560 sq. ft.. & larger	105 HCF	65 HCF

Most Franklin Hills lots fall in the under 7,500 sq. ft. category. Your usage shown on past DWP bills will allow you to figure how much you need to conserve to stay under the new limits. For households with more than 6 residents you may add additional HCF units to the amounts in the list above: add 4 HCF for 7 persons, plus 2 additional units for each additional person up to the limit of 13 persons.

Use of sprinklers is limited to Mondays and Thursdays before 9am or after 4pm.

Hoses must be equipped with self-closing nozzles, but may be used any day except between 9am and 4pm.

Washing down driveways, sidewalks, or other paved surfaces is prohibited as is car washing with your hose unless equipped with a self-closing nozzle.

The DWP list of water restrictions can be found at:

<http://www.ladwp.com/ladwp/cms/ladwp009868.pdf>

The DWP does have programs to help you cut water use including free low-flow showerheads and faucet aerators. The DWP also has many rebate programs for water efficient toilets, appliances and irrigation systems.

This summer why not go without the flow and keep your usage low.



GGPNC

(Continued from Page 17)

Under the GGPNC Bylaws ten district representatives are elected in even numbered years.

Those elections now set for March 2010 are run by the City Clerk. In odd years, like 2009, the board chooses the nine additional boardmembers aiming for diversity. Five of the positions are

designated to ensure that key community interests are reflected on the GGPNC's Board as provided in the bylaws.

"Appointed Board Members shall include at least one representative of each of the following: (a) business interests; (b) the religious community; (c) educational interests; (d) recreational interests; and, (e) non-residential community or charitable groups." To further ensure diversity, there are also four "at large" appointed seats which are open to all GGPNC stakeholders. Those are people who live, work, own property or are affiliated with any of the interests above in the GGPNC area, which covers Franklin Hills, Los Feliz and a bit of East Hollywood. Information on how to apply can be found on the www.GGPNC.org website.

The FHRA was active in founding the GGPNC, with the current and former FHRA presidents significant contributors in formulating the bylaws. They were guided by one of the key principals of the Neighborhood Council plan, that each NC should create a unique organization suited to the community's talent, resources and needs. If you think you'd like to up your community involvement to the next level, but aren't sure just what being a member of the Neighborhood Council entails, please feel free to e-mail me at BruceCarroll@FranklinHills.org. I've been a GGPNC boardmember since it began in 2002 and can probably answer your questions.

Unightly Dumping Cleared with Help of Councilman Tom LaBonge and the FHRA



Luckily for the folks on Lyric Avenue this unsightly Before photo was eventually transformed into the clean and serene After picture – with help from our City Councilman Tom LaBonge.

A Franklin Hills property owner was clearing the brush on his hillside lots—but taking many weeks to accomplish it. Over time others saw the trash bags and began unloading their refuse too. Before you know it, we had both a fire hazard and an unsightly dump right here in our lovely neighborhood!



Special thanks to Jullian Harris-Calvin in Tom LaBonge's office for her help in notifying the property owner and getting this potentially dangerous situation in hand.

FHRA would like to remind residents that it's not only smart but also courteous to quickly remove trash bags, rejected furniture and appliances, etc. from your property and the street.

Let's keep America –and the Franklin Hills—beautiful.



On September 12, 1930, construction began on John Marshall High School. The school was built to accommodate 1200 students, but looking at the empty hillsides surrounding the school, one may have thought that students would have to be brought in from surrounding communities (or cities!) in order to come up with a student body of nearly 1,500 kids.

Photo Credit to Los Angeles Public Library's website - www.lapl.org

Hover Walk Mural (Continued from page 14)

This project could not have happened without two ample grants and much advice and patience from Michael Espinosa and the staff of the Office of Community Beautification (formerly known as the Neighborhood Matching Fund), part of the City of Los Angeles' Board of Public Works. More financial and moral support came from the FHRA, the Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council and Councilmember LaBonge and his staff. I am grateful to everyone for this generosity. Volunteers came out of the woodwork. City staff helped in myriad ways, and other artists, like Kuva Zackheim, helped with the preparation of the walls and the installation of this mural.

This mural represents a first for artist Ricardo Mendoza. Instead of painting the mural right onto

the walls, Ricardo created it on fabric in his studio and brought it to the site as three huge rolls, which were then unfurled and installed. Needless to say, with panels of this scale no longer hanging in his live-work space, Ricardo and his family are still adjusting to their home without the two giant, gentle figures; the rich mosaic color pattern; the watchful eye; and the protective wings.

Now these fanciful and hopeful symbols live in our neighborhood. We hope Ricardo and his family will visit the Hoover Walk often to appreciate them with us.

See Hoover Walk Mural photo on the cover.

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY - JOIN FHRA



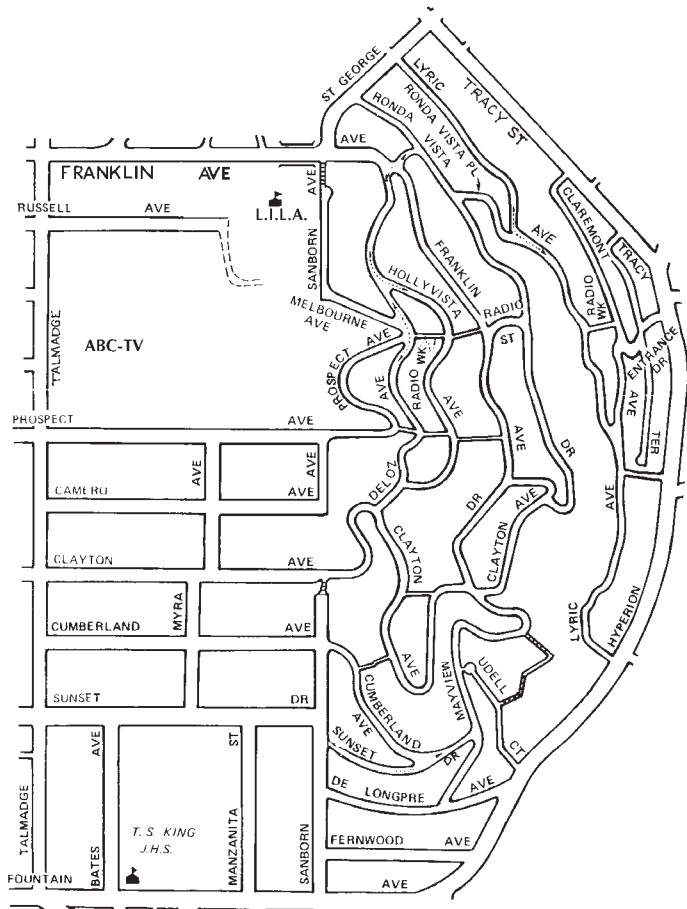
Marshall High School Circa 1931

On Jan 26, 1931, Marshall High School opened its doors with an intended capacity of 1200 students. Today the student body population of JMHS is 4,500!

Between Jan '31 and June '32 a second 3 story classroom building was built just south of the one shown.

For additional historical photos visit our collection at:
<http://www.franklinhills.org/fh-historicfotos.pdf>

Photo Credit to Los Angeles Public Library's website - www.lapl.org



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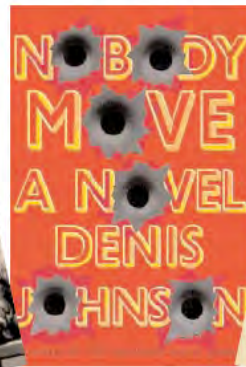
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