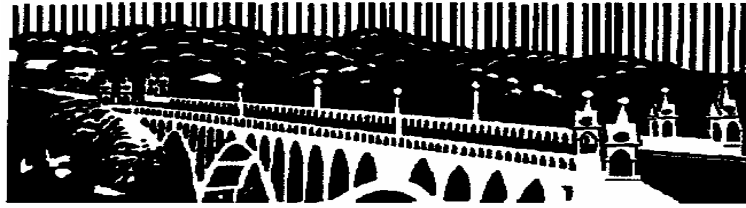


# OVERVIEW

Fall &  
Winter



2010

## Franklin Hills Residents Association



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— *Charley Mims*



Our President, Michelle Parkinson, is laid up with a bad case of the flu, so I am filling in with a Chairman's Report for the holiday issue of the Overview.

The Franklin Hills Residents Association has had another busy year. We continued to support the Griffith Park Natural History Survey with both monetary donations and time of our members. George Grace has led the way with his donations of time and money. Thanks, George.

Prospect Studios staff coordinated a clean up of the public stairways on the lower portion of Radio Walk. Thanks, neighbors.

Franklin Hills Residents Association members once more lighted the Shakespeare Bridge with holiday lighting. For those of you who passed by our "decorators" last December, thanks for the smiles and waves!

Recently a few students walking through our neighborhood have sprayed graffiti and trespassed into neighbors' side yards. We are working with the local schools to educate students to respect the neighborhood around their schools. We

have had great success with the graffiti paint out telephone numbers to the Department of Public Works. They have responded quickly and efficiently. Thank you City of Los Angeles' Department of Public Works!

While crime remains at a low level in our neighborhood, we know that when we are a victim of crime either property or personal, it is traumatic. Years ago my place (in another area) was burglarized. It made me feel vulnerable and violated. Even though the insurance company covered my losses, it was an horrible experience. Please look out for your neighbors and help keep crimes low in our area.

We have a new organization founded by local residents. The Friends of Griffith Park held a "coming out" reception in October to announce the formation of a non-profit group dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of our own Griffith Park. Keep an eye out for announcements of their future activities.

We have supported independent monitoring of the activity and noise levels emanating from Prospect Studios. I am pleased to report

that the noise level has been lowered since Debbie Nelson has become the Facilities Manager for Prospect Studios earlier this year. While the noise levels still exceed the criteria in the Los Angeles Municipal code, neighbors have detected a significantly lower level of noise. Thanks for your leadership Debbie!

And last but certainly not least, the years of efforts by the Franklin Hills Residents Association in assisting with the upgrading of the Big Blue M at Marshall High School is nearing completion. Thanks to the FHRA and to the leadership of Sarah Napier, Chair of the Education Committee of the Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council, the design of the JMHS student has been wonderfully realized by a local artist. The broken ceramic tiles incorporated into the new Big Blue M mosaic have created a wonderful new landmark for our community. The new display of artistry at the corner of St. George and Griffith Park Blvd. is a tribute to not only the students and faculty of our high school, but also of the neighbors who support public education. Thanks Sarah! ■

"The new display of artistry at the corner of St. George & Griffith Park Blvd. is a tribute to not only the students and faculty of our high school, but also to the neighbors who support public education."

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# Traffic Backups to Prevent Sewer Backups

By Bruce Carroll



You may have already experienced the traffic delays and "No Parking" signs along Franklin Avenue for the past few weeks. Expect them to continue in our area until sometime next summer. Once the work on Franklin to Radio Walk is done sewer replacement work is also scheduled for sections of Ronda Vista, Lyric and Tracy.

Even though the city is not flush with money, there's got to be room for all our waste to safely go down the drain. So sewer contractor Prkacin Company is replacing our old 6" concrete waste lines with larger 8" clay pipes which company owner Salvador Bermudez says will better seal in the stuff you don't want to get out, and keep out roots and other intruders that we don't want to get in.



The old sewer was installed when the streets were first paved over 80 years ago. Bermudez says his crew's work will last "until none of us is around – at least another 80 years."

**Please drive with less speed and more care in the work areas.**

## Replacing Our Neighborhood's I.D.s / *Shirley Mims*

According to the FHRA bylaws, the boundaries of Franklin Hills extend along Franklin from Talmadge to St. George, along Tracy between St. George and Hyperion, along Hyperion between Tracy and Fountain, along Fountain from Hyperion to Talmadge and along Talmadge from Fountain to Franklin. The Winter 1997 Overview #14 announced the installation of seven neighborhood identity signs that were originally approved by Councilman John Ferraro for placement along the Franklin Hills perimeter. These distinctive blue signs carry the Franklin Hills name along with the seal of the City of Los Angeles. Their seven locations include: 1. **Franklin at Talmadge** 2. **Prospect at Talmadge** 3. **Talmadge at Fountain** 4. **Hyperion at Fountain** 5. **Hyperion at Entrance** 6. **Tracy at Hyperion** 7. **St. George at Tracy**



To date, three of these signs have gone missing. The sign at Franklin and Talmadge was an apparent victim of tree trimming that brought down the sign on a regular basis until one last time when it was not returned to its upright position and eventually disappeared. Another prominent sign disappeared over a year ago on St. George at Tracy. Its post is still standing but the sign is no longer on top. After taking a full inventory, I discovered that the sign on Prospect at Talmadge was also missing.

Thanks to the efforts of Councilman LaBonge's office and the Department of Transportation's (DOT) Jeannie Shen, our request was put into the process for the DOT to maintain our cherished identity signs. Look for their replacement some time soon. If you notice another sign is gone, please notify the FHRA so that we can ask for it to be replaced. ■

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David Selznick once said famously, "There are only two kinds of class: first class and no class." So far as real estate is concerned, I have to agree with him. The commission dollars you pay are significant--and you deserve First Class value for every dollar spent.

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## Los Feliz Library Needs More Friends / *Brenda Kilbourne*

Never before have the Friends of the Los Feliz Library needed friends more. With the Los Angeles City's deep budget cuts, continuing library services depend on your membership dues...only \$20 a year...and monthly used book sales. The money raised helps fill the gaps left by layoffs of librarian staff, gardeners and painters. We help to fund necessary programs for toddlers to teens and adult literacy.

The Friends of the Los Feliz Library invite you to join our dynamic group to help keep Los Feliz literate. To make it easy, we will pick up donations of used books. Please put them in bags and call Angela Stewart at 323-665-7840, or Brenda Kilbourne at 323-665-3925 for pickup.

Then visit our Used Book Sale held at the library on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month. (Except this December which is Christmas day). The book sales run from 10 am until library closing.

You can mail your membership to Friends of the Los Feliz Library at PO Box 27224, Los Angeles, CA 90027. All donations whether membership dues or books are tax deductible. Thanks for your support at this critical

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## Emergency/Disaster Readiness / *Elizabeth Richardson*

### A Safe, Sterilized, Sufficient Water Supply

After an earthquake, having an adequate, available supply of water is crucial. By now, you should have 5 gallons per person stored away on something other than concrete. (FYI: Count your pet as a 'person'.) But if you've run out of the good stuff and the purity of your next water source is questionable, what can you do to make other sources of water safe?

**BEST!!!** Add 8 drops of Liquid Chlorine Beach to one gallon of water. Double this dose if the water is cloudy.

OR

**GOOD!!** Add 12 drops of 2% Tincture of Iodine to one gallon of water. Double this dose if the water is cloudy.

OR

**ACCEPTABLE!** Boil the water vigorously for 5 minutes if you're at sea level which we are here. Double this time if the water is cloudy.

#### AND REMEMBER

Dirty water should first be strained through a coffee filter, cheesecloth, or a paper towel to remove suspended matter.

#### AND DON'T FORGET

Clean and sanitize your food and water containers before using them. Wash with soap and water then fill with a 10% bleach solution. After 5 min. empty the bleach solution and let air dry.


Source: Los Angeles Fire Department Emergency Preparedness Booklet, 2010; Downloadable from:

<http://www.cert-la.com/EmergPrepBooklet.pdf> ■



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## Emergency/Disaster Readiness / *Elizabeth Richardson*

### Disaster Planning for Your Pet

Make a plan NOW. Arrange NOW to find alternative housing for your pet if, after a disaster, you can't keep them at your home. You will not be able to take your pet with you if you have to go to an emergency shelter. Finding that temporary home for him after a disaster is definitely not going to be easy.

If you have to evacuate your home, DO NOT leave your pet behind. She is unlikely to survive on her own. If, by some lucky chance, she does survive, you may not be able to find her upon your return.

If your pet manages to escape despite your best efforts to catch him, the current identification on his collar is his ticket home. Better yet, get him micro-chipped!

Take a photo of you together with your pet and send it to a friend or relative in another community or state. With the picture in hand, go to search the local pet shelter after the emergency. If you find your pet, show the folks at the pet shelter the pictures so they will know you and your pet belong together. Believe it or not, unscrupulous people will lie to shelter personnel so they can adopt lost pets after an emergency.

Finally, keep a list of all your pet's medications and vaccinations in your GO bag. If you can, keep a spare supply of her medications in the bag or in the refrigerator and rotate it every six months. ■



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## Why the Sun Is So Cool / *Bruce Carroll*



If you liked our cool summer perhaps you should thank my solar power system. After about a year of operation it claims to have prevented about 16 tons of CO2 from adding to global warming. While there is absolutely no scientific theory to explain why my system would cool LA while much of the country had a record hot summer, there is a lot that science hasn't figured out.

What my figures do show is that there were 57 days when I made at least twice the power that I consumed, compared with only 14 days when I didn't make at least half of my power needs. The highest solar production was just under 80kilowatt hours, (kwh) the lowest just 3.22kwh. Not surprisingly the highest use, 163kwh, came on LA's hottest day ever when it reached 113 degrees. Average days without air conditioning I use about 37kwh. In fact, I only needed to turn on my air conditioning 22 days this summer, thanks in part to my new reflectively cool white roof. And the cool roof meant my AC used less power even on those 90 degree days. So much less power that by the end of summer my solar panels had actually generated 4750 kilowatt hours more power than I had used.

Currently the DWP gives customers credit for the surplus against future use, next year utilities will have to pay solar power producers for their surplus which goes into the electric grid for use by other customers... thus reducing the need for polluting power generation. Even without getting paid for the surplus, electric rates are sure to rise and with payments for surplus power coming in 2011 the pay back time should get shorter and shorter. If you're thinking of solar, feel free to e-mail me at: [BruceCarroll@FranklinHills.org](mailto:BruceCarroll@FranklinHills.org) and I'd be happy to provide free advice...and we all know what that's worth! ■

*The array of 64 black photovoltaic solar panels, against the bright white PVC roof, stand out from space in this Google Earth view from November 2009.*

*The author is the FHRA's treasurer, webmaster, e-mail minder, historical photo curator, and solar energy guru.*





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## The CRITTERS of Franklin Hills



### By George Grace

(Disclaimer: I am not a biologist. The following information was gathered from various publications and the internet.)

I expected to see "critters" in Franklin Hills when I moved here over 30 years ago, and I wasn't disappointed. What I hadn't expected was their diversity, and how many I'd see. No other metropolis in the United States has such a plethora of wildlife in its urban neighborhoods. They make L.A. and Franklin Hills unique and very special. I've put together a few facts about some of the bigger wildlife in "the Hills", specifically opossums, skunks, raccoons, and coyotes. This info is intended as a quick reference, and an effort to help our friends and neighbors understand and coexist with our local wildlife.

Opossums, skunks, and raccoons are solitary, polygamous, and nomadic. They are nocturnal, leaving the nest/den to forage from dusk to dawn. They can occasionally be seen foraging during the day. Opossums, skunks, raccoons and coyotes are omnivores with diets that include insects, fruits and vegetables, nuts, grubs, worms, rodents and other small mammals, birds, snails, carrion, frogs, fish, and eggs; and of course in our urban environment, available pet food, and edible garbage from open dumpsters, garbage cans, and compost piles. All prefer to forage at night, but can occasionally be seen during the day, particularly in drought years.

Each has distinct diet preferences. Opossums prefer fruit, and snails are a delicacy. Opossums are a boon to yards that have snail infestations. Skunks like grubs and insects best, but also eat mice and rats. If your rodent problems mysteriously disappear you may have a skunk to thank for it. Raccoons have been called "one of the world's most omnivorous animals", and eat almost anything. Their favorite things are fruits and nuts. Around here, seed in birdfeeders, edible garbage, and fish from backyard ponds are also major food sources.

Skunks and raccoons normally breed from January through March. Males don't hang around for long after the breeding season. Females are responsible for raising their babies, and this maternal instinct forms the basis of their social life. Skunks and raccoons generally have 4 to 7 babies per litter. Mothers will remain in their den until the babies are old enough to leave and help forage for food. This is usually in July or August. That's when Mother Skunk emerges, with kits following single file behind her, and being nomadic, they may never return to the home den. This is also the time when Mother Raccoon begins to teach her cubs how to hunt for food, and climb trees. Skunks and raccoons will generally live with their mother up to the next breeding season.

The family group, which consists of the adult female and young, is quite sociable, hunting for food together during the night and denning together during the day. Family life for the shy, secretive opossum is quite different. Opossums are marsupials - the only ones found in North America. They are very agile in trees, but spend most of their time on the ground. They also mate in January/March, but give birth after the shortest gestation period of any North American mammal (12 to 13 days) to 12 to 16 partially formed embryos that must crawl up into the Mother's pouch. ►



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After about 60 to 70 days the youngsters' eyes open, and they will venture out of the pouch. When they reach 75 to 85 days of age, they are weaned and seldom go back in the pouch. This is the time when you can see Mother Opossum moving slowly through our yards with a bunch of juveniles riding on her back! They will stay with their mother until they are about 3 to 4 months old. Opossums, skunks, and raccoons like to nest/den in similar areas below ground or above ground, including in abandoned nests, burrows, wood piles, dense undergrowth, sheds, crawl spaces, and under decks or buildings. Opossums and raccoons also like attics and trees.

None of the three is aggressive, but they all display combative behavior if they feel threatened. Under serious threat, an opossum will respond ferociously, hissing, screeching, and showing its teeth – all 50 of them. If this display doesn't work, they instinctively fall into a coma that may last several hours. The phrase "playing possum" is really incorrect since possums are not "playing"! The most notorious feature of skunks is their anal scent glands, which they can use as a defensive weapon. Muscles located next to the scent glands allow them to spray with a high degree of accuracy. The odor of the fluid is strong enough to ward off bears and other potential attackers. I can say from personal experience that it is almost impossible to remove from dogs. If you are in the way, you can say goodbye to any clothes you are wearing. Skunks are reluctant to use this weapon unless they are with their kits, when they will let loose anytime on anything. Normally, skunks that feel threatened will go through an elaborate routine of hisses, foot stamping, and tail-high threat postures before resorting to the spray. Raccoons are fairly even tempered and have even been made into pets (though this is not recommended). However, when a raccoon is threatened or attacked it can become quite savage and dangerous.

The coyote was called "song dog" by American Indians. If you hear coyotes "singing" at night around here, you'll know why. Unlike the other big critters in Franklin Hills, a mated pair of coyotes remains monogamous for many years, usually for life. Coyotes are mostly carnivorous. They feed at any time throughout the day, but most of their feeding takes place at night. Rodents comprise 80% of their diet, and they are recognized as an important ecological factor in controlling them. They also like fruit, vegetables, edibles from garbage cans, and pet food left outside. Unfortunately in urban settings, cats and small dogs are also attractive prey, and will be attacked if the opportunity arises.

Coyotes bed in sheltered areas and do not generally use dens except when raising young. After mating occurs from January through March, females seek a concealed den. That may be in steep banks, rock crevices, sinkholes and underbrush, and even in open areas. Coyotes often dig out and enlarge holes dug by smaller burrowing animals, like skunks. Lacking this, they will dig one from scratch. Dens vary from a few feet to 50 feet and may have several openings. The average litter of 6 pups is born two months later. 60% of newborns will not survive to adulthood. Both parents take a hand in feeding and raising their pups until they are able to take care of themselves. Male pups will disperse from their dens between months 6 and 9, while females usually remain with the parents and form the basis of a family pack. Coyotes either live in these related packs, as solitary individuals, or as mated pairs. They can live to be 15 years old. It seems that there is less wildlife in the Hills than there used to be. Maybe it's because we have all become more insular, and built fences around our properties. This may give us a feeling of security, but it also reduces wildlife habitat for living and raising families. We need to strike a balance between protecting our space and sharing some of it with the wonderful creatures that were here long before we arrived. I hope this article will help. ■

## Scavenging In the Hills / *Michelle Parkinson*

I don't know about you, but lately I've noticed a lot more people scavenging the trash for recyclables in the Franklin Hills. The people that scavenge in my area (near Thomas Starr King Jr. High) are regulars. I see the same woman in her snow jacket with the hood up and the same rough looking guy (sometimes drunk) trudging up and down my street every day, including Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.

Please don't think me heartless but I find it completely annoying to find someone digging through my trash. Perhaps it is because I've been a victim of identity theft that I am very suspicious of someone taking things that I intended to be discarded. Perhaps it's because when I'm paying for trash pick-up I should be able to decide where my trash goes. When I put recyclables in the blue bin I expect the city to get the revenue from them not a group of people that are clearly desperate for cash.

My annoyance only increases when I ask them not to scavenge the cans, only to be ignored and/or yelled at in response. This is where I find my dilemma. Do I allow someone that I believe is desperate for cash to search through my trash for items of value? Or am I reasonable in chasing them off? What if they steal my identity?

Prior to 1985, most people just had metal cans with removable lids. At the time, scavenging was done more by coyotes than humans. There was no real issue with human scavengers. There wasn't much money in recycling at the time. Concerns were more about keeping wild animals from venturing into residential areas.

In 1995, a biologist named William Wirtz II from Pomona College was studying coyotes and the effect of urbanization on the coyote diet. He compared droppings of coyotes in Claremont, CA with those found in Glendale, CA. The results showed that Glendale coyotes ate about 15 times more trash than those in Claremont.

Ultimately, he determined the reason was that Claremont had tightly fitted hinged lids on its trash cans making it difficult for coyotes to get into the trash. This was the only discernable difference observed in the two areas. This is what prompted wide spread use of hinged lid cans in Los Angeles. In Alaska, the concern was bears and keeping them away from residential neighborhoods. Alaska Waste Management developed several types of locking trash cans, including one that locked with a push button and unlocked with the pressure of gravity when the trash truck shook the can upside down.

These cans didn't keep out the bears but they are showing promise in Santa Ana, California where they have been used since 2009. These locking cans have increased revenues from recycled materials, reduced wildlife encounters in residential neighborhoods and restored general peace of mind about the security of your personal information when disposed of in the trash.

Los Angeles has been studying this idea for years. In 1995, the City of Los Angeles received a \$100,000 grant to help expand an anti-scavenging program and implemented a citywide police patrol program to target thieves who recyclables from residential curbside recycling bins. The program was maintained for six-months in the west San Fernando Valley and was credited with saving the city thousands of dollars in recycling revenue. The project has since fallen by the wayside and besides getting a patrol car to check out a report of scavengers still seems like a waste of police resources. I'm all for the locking trash can - sign me up! If you would like more information you can check out the Bureau of Sanitation at <http://www.lacitysan.org/index.htm>. ■

## Coyote Tracks October 2010 / *George Grace*

I saw a coyote on Clayton Avenue on July 25th. I was going down the Hill, and there he was crumpled up against the curb on the left hand side of the street. I stopped the car and went over to see if I could help, but he was dead. I had seen a coyote in the area several times while walking my dogs, and thought it must be him. There wasn't a mark on him, and I guessed that he was hit by a car. My encounters with him had been harmless and I sort of looked forward to them. A couple of times as soon as we spied each other he ran the other way. On the last occasion, he stood in the middle of Clayton, and gave us (me and my dogs) a curious look. I threw a rock that time to scare him, and he immediately took off. Seeing him lying there made me feel sad. This morning, October 21st, I saw another single coyote in the same place. He ran into a yard, and turned to look at me and my dog. When I shook my fist at him, he also took off.

Experts say that removing coyotes from an area to get rid of them doesn't work; that others will move into that space. I guess that's what has happened here. Experts also say coyotes that become habituated to humans are the ones that create problems. When I encounter one, I try to be as threatening as possible - even throwing things - to make them scared and keep their distance. Otherwise Mr. or Ms. Coyote could be in for a lot of trouble. And I don't feed them. Deliberately feeding coyotes is against the law, but unintentionally feeding them by leaving out pet food, or unsecured garbage has the same result. And especially now, after seeing the dead coyote, I drive very carefully. If I see this new coyote again, I'll shake my fists and maybe even throw something at him, but the truth is, I'll be glad to see him.

On September 25th, L.A. Animal Services Wildlife Officer Greg Randall held a meeting about coyotes in the neighborhood at Marshall High School. About 40 neighbors attended. Greg had several displays with photos of critters (not just coyotes) taken in our area. Another display was a map of the area (including Los Feliz, and Silver Lake) that showed every location where coyotes have been reported. It shows that coyotes are everywhere. He also brought coyote and other local wildlife brochures that describe their behavior, and what to do if you have any problems. The brochures are available online at the L.A. Animal Services website:

Greg gave a great presentation about local coyotes and showed us devices to use to keep coyotes and other unwanted wildlife out of our yards. None of them is harmful to wildlife, but there's no doubt that the air horn and whistles he demonstrated will scare them off. After his talk, there was a question and answer period, where many asked who to call with their problems or about injured or orphaned wildlife. One person asked why a lone coyote was continuing to return again and again to the street corner by his house. Greg's answer was that he couldn't know what this coyote was thinking, but that it might be a coyote grieving for a missing mate since coyotes mate for life. He said he would come out and observe the coyote if it kept hanging around. He also encouraged everyone to call him at Animal Services about any wildlife issues. To say that Wildlife Officer Greg Randall is dedicated and knowledgeable about urban wildlife is an understatement. We're lucky he's here! ■

Please post your coyote sightings at the Coyote Sighting webpage, and share you experiences with others in our area:

[http://www.laanimalservices.com/aboutani\\_wildlife.htm](http://www.laanimalservices.com/aboutani_wildlife.htm) The author can be e-mailed at: [gmrnet1@gmrnet.com](mailto:gmrnet1@gmrnet.com)

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## Franklin Hills Residents Association

Contact FHRA:

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## OVERVIEW

Editor—Eric Frase

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(323-666-5548)

### *Contributing Writers:*

*Bruce Carroll, Elizabeth Richardson,*

*Michelle Parkinson, George Grace,*

*Charley Mims,*

*Shirley Mims, Brenda Kilbourne*

### *Mailing address:*

*Overview, P.O. Box 29122*

*Los Angeles, CA 90029*

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4 <sup>th</sup> District:	councilmember.labonge@lacity.org
Field Deputy:	.....(818) 755-7630
Mary Rodriguez	email:
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FHRA Voicemail:	.....(323) 908-9078
	email:FHRA@FranklinHills.org
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## Fascinating Facts Fill FHRA Meeting / *Bruce Carroll*

FHRA President Michelle Parkinson opened the FHRA's annual meeting on June 19<sup>th</sup> with a welcome to neighbors and then introduced the current board members and candidates. When the votes were tallied, Parkinson, Chairman Charley Mims and Eric Frase were re-elected, Armida Bolton will rejoin the board after a several year absence and newcomer Teresa Vogel completed the slate of five elected to two year terms on the FHRA Board.

Next came worrisome news from LA Fire Department Battalion Chief Chris Kawai (below) on the local impact of budget cuts, pointing out that Engine 35 on Hillhurst is no longer staffed nine days each month. He then graphically explained why, even though Franklin Hills is not a heavy wild brush area, just the steep hills mean fires can spread fast. Think of lighting a match to a flat sheet of paper...then think how much harder it would be to put the flame out if you tilt the paper at an angle like our hills. That's why following brush clearance regulations is so important.

Councilmember Tom LaBonge started with good news that the traffic signal at the "tough intersection" of Finley and Hillhurst had moved from wish to reality. As to another oft heard wish, he said he's still looking to get funds to repair our streets, but pointed out "if it's concrete, the city doesn't like to touch it. They just like to let it go until it's almost gone and then they try to figure out what to do with it." Then he fielded questions and asked for input from the FHRA about noise from barking dogs, motorcycles and helicopters at Prospect Studios

and an expected request from Marshall High for lights on the newly renovated athletic field.

Conservation Biologist Dan Cooper, whose work has been supported by the FHRA, presented some of his surprising and interesting findings from the Griffith Park Natural History survey. The first of its kind systematic cataloging of the flora and fauna in the park. His biggest surprise of 2010 was finding the "extremely rare locally" magenta flowered Chaparral Pea, which he had previously only seen in books. Links to his Griffith Park discoveries can be found on the [www.FranklinHills.org](http://www.FranklinHills.org) website.

King Middle School student Michelle Kim proudly displayed "Soar," her winning design in the Myra Mural IV contest. Students of Computer Animation teacher Kirk Palayan submitted 20 designs and nearly 200 e-mail votes were cast. After City approval, students with professional guidance will paint the mural on the wall where Myra passes under Sunset Blvd., one of the gateways to the Franklin Hills.

The meeting then moved from art to a true literary exercise. Author Charles Fleming (seated right) told the meeting how back pain was the muse

for writing his new book, *Secret Stairs - A Walking Guide to the Historic Staircases of Los Angeles*, which details 42 stairway walks in the LA area, including two Franklin Hills routes which rank in the top 10 for the number of stairs. After his presentation he autographed books for meeting attendees. The book's popularity, reaching #5 on the LA Times best seller list, has surprised Fleming.

During the meeting raffle winners won a copy of Fleming's book, Laemmle Theatre movie tickets and dinner for two at Palermo Restaurant donated by its owner and generous long time FHRA supporter Tony Fanara.

The meeting was hosted by the LILA School, also the location of our FHRA sponsored Norman Harriton Community Garden. After the meeting, former FHRA Chairman Adam Weisman showed off the beginnings of his hoped for bountiful harvest of tomatoes and cucumbers which, alas, were not quite ripe yet. But meeting goers didn't go away hungry. In addition to fruit, veggie and sandwich trays, the hit, as always, were the brownies, cookies and other delectable delights from Franklin Hills resident Vivien Shea's magic oven. ■



Myra mural winner Michelle Kim



Above—Author Charles Fleming (seated)



Left—LAFD battalion chief Chris Kawai

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## Absolutely Free of Charge! / *Chris Boutelle*

Is the body of your black trash container cracked? Has your blue recycling bin lost a wheel? Is the top of your green yard clippings barrel missing or broken?

You can get it repaired or replaced if necessary free from the city by calling the city's central service telephone number "311" and having them connect you with the Bureau of Sanitation. As their machines most likely caused the damage to your container, they will replace it the following week. After all, the city doesn't want refuse leaking onto the street.

You must have the serial number (printed on the front of the container) and address of your property to give them when you call. Then they will usually ask you to leave the EMPTY container out by the curb the day after its usual pick-up day (Thursday is pick-up day in Franklin Hills.)

If you have a large or bulky item that is too big for your black bin, such as a couch, a refrigerator, or a mattress, you can call the same number—"311". They will direct you to the Department of Sanitation who will arrange a pick-up. On Weekends, the 311 operator can take your request.

Finally, at this time of year, many people have bought and enjoyed a Holiday Tree. What do you do with it when the holidays are over? First remove all of the decorations (including tinsel) and the stand. Then cut it up as much as you can and place it in your GREEN yard trimmings container. It should not stick out of the container as the top should be able to close so that the truck's grabbing arms do not injure the top. The Department of Sanitation will pick it up on the following Thursday when you put your trash out. They will compost it.

Let's replace or renew our containers so that their contents don't spill out or fill up with rain in inclement weather. ■

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